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34.

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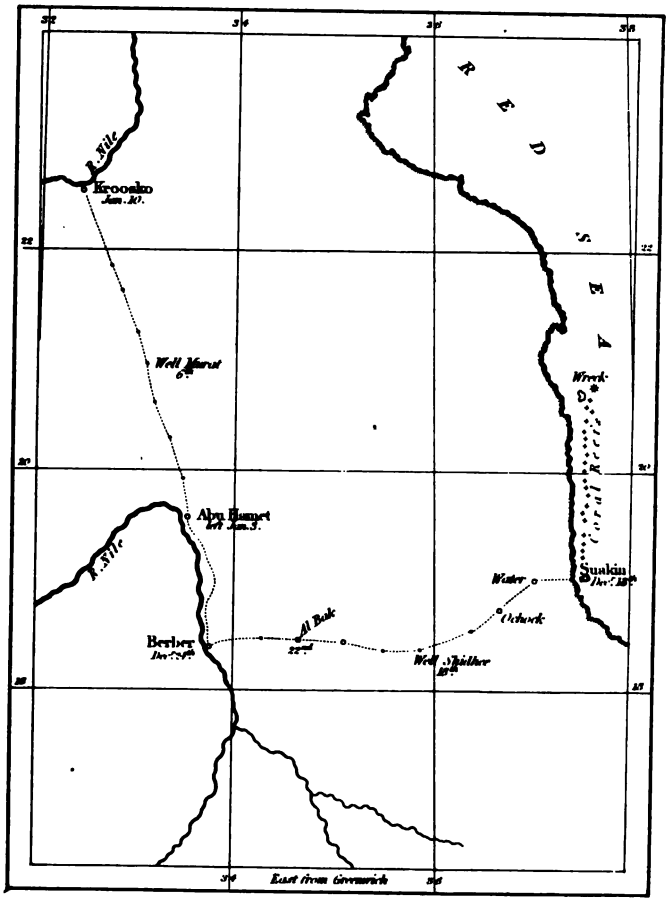
ROUTE FROM SUAKIN TO KROOSKO.



NARRATIVE

OF

A PASSAGE

FROM

BOMBAY TO ENGLAND,

DESCRIBING THE AUTHOR'S

SHIPWRECK IN THE NAUTILUS,

IN THE RED SEA;

JOURNIES ACROSS THE NUBIAN DESERT;

DETENTION IN THE LAZARETTO
AT LEGHORN,

&c. &c.

BY CAPT. W. BOURCHIER, R.N.

LONDON:
WHITTAKER & CO., AVE-MARIA LANE.

1834.

36.

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BAYLIS AND LEIGHTON, JOHNSON'S COURT,
FLEET-STREET.

PREFACE.

One object which I have in publishing this brief Narrative is, that I may thereby clearly and circumstantially contradict a report which I have heard, that I was in command of the Hon. E. I. Company's armed brig Nautilus, when that vessel was unfortunately wrecked in the Red Sea, in December last. By holding a commission in the Royal Navy, I am precluded from entering the Naval Service of the Honourable Company, even though such were my wish. I was merely a passenger in the Nautilus, anxious to return to England in the shortest time possible, in consequence of disappointed hopes at Bombay, which had nothing to do with the service of the Company. My passage by the Nautilus was very handsomely offered to me by Captain William Lowe, an officer of great ability

and experience, to whom it is impossible, even for those who like me suffered by the shipwreck, to attach any blame respecting that catastrophe.

Another object which I have, is to lay before my friends, and such of the public as may take an interest in it, a simple Narrative, without amplification or embellishment; and containing in substance nothing more than what passed under my own personal observation, and was noted down immediately after it took place.

Such a work has, of course, the character of perfect truth to recommend it; and I flatter myself that it will be found to have also some novelty and some usefulness. One part of the route, that from Suakin to Berber, was previously untrodden by Englishmen; and I believe I may say, by Europeans. The knowledge of that part is, therefore, a positive addition to topographical geography; and though all the other parts have been visited, it has not been in the same order of succession. So that there may be said to be novelty in the whole line to which the Nar-

rative relates. The courses, distances, and positions of the wells, both in the eastern and the northern parts of the Nubian desert, though they have no pretensions to the same minute accuracy as systematic surveys, may also be of use; likewise the account of expenses from Suakin to Cairo, as stated at the close of the fourth chapter.

But there is one other particular, on which this little work may found a claim to novelty: it is exactly what it professes to be, and nothing more—a simple Narrative of a Passage. Travels, whether by sea or by land, which usually lead to the publication of books, have generally, if not invariably, other objects besides the mere travelling. They are undertaken for some purpose connected with discovery in Geography, in Natural History, in Commerce, or something more than the mere wish of travelling so many miles; and, besides, the production of the book itself is not unfrequently part of the original stimulus to the travelling, and a powerful modifying circumstance during the whole progress of it. Such travellers are never out of their

way, if they can find matter which will attract and gratify readers.

My object, on the other hand, was simply to get from Bombay to England in the shortest time possible; and, therefore, every thing which I met with in the form of adventure, or capable of making a readable story, in the hands of a professed writer, was to me disaster, or at best delay. When I embarked on board the Nautilus, I had no more thought of writing a book, than I at this moment have of going again to India with excited hopes, finding these hopes again disappointed, and being again wrecked in the Red Sea, parched in the desert of Nubia, and detained in the lazaretto at Leghorn. Whatever came in my way, I naturally examined, but never to the sacrificing of my main object of getting quickly home. Therefore, I say again that my little book professes to be nothing but "a simple Narrative." As such, I leave it to its fate, grateful to those numerous friends who have encouraged its appearance, as well as to all who may become its readers.

NARRATIVE,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

PASSAGE FROM BOMBAY TO SUAKIN—WRECK OF THE HON. E. I. COMPANY'S ARMED BRIG NAUTILUS.

EXPECTATIONS at Bombay, the details of which could be of no interest to the reader, induced me to leave England for that place in the summer of 1833.

On my reaching Liverpool on the 6th of July, the Frances, Captain Heath, in which I intended to take my passage, was already under weigh; by great good fortune I soon reached her, got on board, made an agreement with Captain Heath, and in a short space of time we were sailing down the Mersey, in full confidence of a pleasant voyage, and a successful termination. Mere passages to India have been described by so many pens, and in styles so varied,

that no novelty or interest could be given to the recital of ours. We had about the usual allowance of calms and storms, a sea-worthy vessel, and a skilful, attentive, and obliging commander, by means of which, and at least the usual compliment of fair winds, we reached Bombay, without accident or adventure, in little more than three months.

My trip was any thing but successful. My hopes were all disappointed, my plans entirely frustrated, so that I had made a passage to India, the only result of which was a desire to get back to England as speedily as possible; and the failure of my expectations in the East rendered it of the utmost importance that I should reach home as early in the year 1834 as possible. The Red Sea, Egypt, and the Mediterranean being by much the shorter passage, I resolved to adopt that; and it was not long ere I found an opportunity. Captain William Lowe, of the Hon. East India Company's brig of war Nautilus, though otherwise much crowded, most obligingly offered me a passage in that vessel up the Red Sea, from whence I could accomplish the rest with ease and certainty.

On the 5th of November we sailed, standing across the Arabian Sea, for the Straits of Babel-mandeb. On the 14th, we spoke the Clarence from Newcastle to Bombay, which had been out seven months from

England, while I had been little more than four, had landed, re-embarked, and was so far on my return. But the Clarence had stood up the middle of the Arabian Sea, and by that means missed her voyage.

On the 24th, having made the passage of the Arabian Sea in nineteen days, we ran through the narrow Strait of Babel-mandeb, between the coast of Arabia and the island of Perim. At 2 P. M. on the same day we anchored before Mocha, the view of which from the sea is very pleasant and inviting; but as the wind blew a strong gale, we were unable to land that evening.

The weather being milder on the morning of the 25th, we went on shore at an early hour; and it was fortunate that we did so, for soon after we landed it came on to blow very furiously. Our first visit in Mocha was to the E. I. Company's agent, and then we proceeded to pay our respects to the governor. Coffee and hoòkahs were presented to us immediately on our entrance, for it seems that among the people bordering on the Red Sea the appearance of these is as essential to a friendly meeting, as it is to eat salt with the Bedouin of the desert, or smoke the calumet of peace in the wigwam of an American Indian. Many of the governor's guards were Africans, as black as jet, armed to the teeth with sword, dagger, and pistols, in which it would appear they eat, drink,

and even sleep, for we afterwards saw many of them in the town taking a comfortable nap in the cool with all their accoutrements on.

Mocha was at this time held by Toorkey Belmoss, a rebel general of Mahomet Ali Pacha, whom he had been endeavouring to reduce to obedience; and a short time previous to our arrival had actually dispatched a large naval force to destroy the Mocha fleet, consisting of *four* vessels. It appears that some noise in the way of firing was made upon the occasion, but exceedingly little damage in killed or wounded.

Leaving the governor, we visited a Persian merchant, who presented us with the usual symbols of welcome—coffee and hookahs. But the Persian added something equally characteristic of his native country, and agreeable as an addition, being sweetmeats and water melons, the latter sprinkled with rose-water and sugar, which add very considerably to their flavour. We slept for that night on shore at the house of the Company's agent, Sheik Jyat, by whom we were politely entertained.

On the morning of the 26th we returned on board, taking with us an Arab pilot, with his son and slave; and soon after we weighed anchor, and stood up the Red Sea. On the 27th we saw the volcanic island of Gebel Tor, but in a very tranquil state,

merely emitting a little smoke without any flame. That part of the Red Sea has many kinds of action going on it, such as this volcanic island, and nearer the Nubian shore very numerous and dangerous coral reefs in continual formation and change. A Captain Moresby has been some time engaged in surveying this dangerous sea; and our pilot, who had landed on Gebel Tor with that captain, showed us some specimens of what he called the lava of that island. To me they appeared to be gypsum incrusted with sulphur.

We continued our course without any thing worthy of remark till the 5th of December, when a fresh breeze sprung up from the N.W., increasing till we were under double-reefed topsails. At a little after 10 p. m. on that evening, the acting lieutenant, Mr. Bird, intimated to the captain, who was on deck, that the water "bore a strange appearance ahead and to leeward." Captain Lowe immediately ordered the helm to be put down; but before the brig could answer it, she forged nearly her length along a reef, and rather bow on. All were instantly on deck, and the greatest possible exertion was made to get her off, but without effect, the reef being composed of hard coral.

The sails were then furled, and the cutter and launch hoisted out, the latter taking a stream-anchor and coir hawser. But after pulling hard for some

time they were obliged to slip the hawser, the launch being nearly driven into the surf, which extended for some distance astern of the brig. After this, the top-gallant yards and masts were sent down.

By this time the wind had increased to a frightful degree, and the waves were rising mountains high, and dashing clear over the vessel. Towards the morning she made some water, and also drove more on the reef broadside on, by that means making a good lee for the boats, but in a situation which made her own escape nearly hopeless.

While we were in this state, a state in itself most alarmingly dangerous, the wind and the waves abated none of their fury, but rather increased. A tremendous sea carrying away the rudder, our situation became perilous in the extreme, and the greatest anxiety was felt by all on board. The reef appeared to stretch a very considerable distance from land; our observations at noon placing us in lat. 20° 43′ N. longitude by chronometer, 38° 38′ E., and by lunar, 38° 44′ E.

As, when the ship struck on the preceding evening, we had all hurried on deck with the utmost expedition, and most of us but scantily clothed, being roused from our berths, so we now attempted to get below, in the hope of being able to dress ourselves in such a manner as to render at least our situation

a little more personally comfortable. But in this expectation we were baffled, for we found the lower deck entirely under water, so that we were glad to make our escape from it as fast as possible, with any thing on which we could first lay our hands; most fortunately I secured some money, my boat-cloak, my watch, and a pocket-compass.

The crew consisted of thirty Europeans, and forty-two natives of India, with five passengers, exclusive of the pilot and his suite. Under any circumstances it was but barely possible that the boats could carry this number to any land, however near. What then must have been our feelings in such a gale, and amid such a sea! the former raging with the violence of a hurricane, the latter beset with reefs hazardous at all times, and now foaming with what well might be considered certain death, as not the finest boat that ever was launched could be expected to find its way, or even to live. Those only who have been in the same imminent peril can form an idea of our sensations at this moment, as the darkness paralyzing our exertions, left us till daybreak (if our term reached even to that length) but at liberty to think of home and of the loved ones there to whom we were, in all human probability, bidding adieu for ever. As every sea made a clean breach over us, we had nothing

left but to resign ourselves to Him who can hush the winds, still the waves, bring hope out of despair, and give life even at the gates of death; and trusting in Him, we awaited as calmly as we were able the return of the morning, if morning was ever again to dawn upon us.

To add to the horrors of this fearful night, a night never to be forgotten, the ship's bell, as each sea struck our devoted vessel, gave one deep and dismal toll; thus, as we imagined, sounding our knell of speedy engulfment by the watery tomb.

Nights of darkness and danger are always long, even without such sad sounds whereby to count their lagging moments; and to us, almost naked, exposed to the fury of the elements, and agonized by suspense, that night seemed an age. But morning at last broke, and in the returning light there was renewed hope, and something which by contrast might have seemed the beginning of joy. The dawn now brightening, our hopes increased, for we distinctly saw the coast of Nubia, though between us and that shore lay the dangers of innumerable reefs.

As the day advanced, the wind rather moderating, a resolution was formed of sending a boat to the main land, in the hope of finding some assistance. Lieutenant Lynch, of the Hon. E. I. Company's

naval service, undertook to proceed on that mission in the gig; but previously to any one leaving the ship, Captain Lowe earnestly entreated that, as our only chance for life depended on the boats, we would not attempt further to overload them by any part of our baggage, but rather save all the lives at the sacrifice of every thing else.

This was, of course, readily acquiesced in, and we proceeded to launch the gig, which, however, was not accomplished without great difficulty; and at half-past seven in the morning Lieutenant Lynch, with Lieutenant Smith, of his Majesty's 40th regiment, the Arab pilot and his son, left us, accompanied by our earnest prayers that they might reach the shore in safety, and with some hope that they might minister to our deliverance.

At nine the masts were cut away; the cutter having got too far astern was swamped, and every thing on board washed out of her, which added to the already heavy amount of our misfortunes.

At noon, finding that the vessel was visibly filling, and no relief from the shore appearing, Captain Lowe came to the resolution that before night came on we should abandon her, and by making for the nearest land endeavour to save our lives. Accordingly, in the afternoon, some pork and biscuit (which unfortunately got wet going through the surf), a

small quantity of water, some arms and ammunition (which also got injured), and a sextant, were put into the boats.

The wind having become still more moderate, we quitted the Nautilus, Captain Lowe being the last to leave the vessel. The improvement of the weather had a little raised our hopes, though our spirits were still heavy, and our feelings were not improved by the consideration that though we had the boats between us and the sea, we were otherwise but scantily provided. The clothes I had on were but few, and in addition to these I had only my pistols, a canvas belt round me containing some gold, and the watch and pocket-compass as already mentioned; but the hope of saving our lives overcame the regret at parting with even the necessary articles of our property, and in this hopeless condition we made sail for the land. The gig had not returned with the expected assistance; we had watched her departure until she became hidden amongst the reefs, and ardently had we looked for her re-appearance, both on our own account, and for those that were in her. But the anxiety with which we had watched her departure was not altogether lost, for we thereby learned to thread our own course with more safety than if we had not previously seen it attempted.

We were distributed in the following manner:—

in the launch forty-six, of whom I made one; in the cutter sixteen, and in the punt eight. We kept company as closely as possible, the launch towing the punt; and when we had proceeded as far as we conveniently could, we landed for the night upon a desolate island, the name of which, as we afterwards learned, is Macowa. On the top of a hill, upon a little island opposite, we observed something white, respecting which there were various conjectures, some being of opinion that it might probably be a signal made by those who had left us in the gig, and of whom we had ascertained nothing since their disappearance among the reefs in the morning. The high ground in our island gave us command of a considerable horizon; but the view was any thing but a cheering one, as the chief objects which it presented were extensive reefs stretching off to an immense distance.

Each person was now allowed a little water and a portion of the damaged biscuit. We had brought some ducks from the brig, and two of these were attempted to be cooked; but though all the wood which could be found on the island was consumed in the operation, that operation was but imperfectly performed, and our appetites had not yet been so disciplined by hardship as to render the cookery of a desert island at all palatable. After this unsuc-

cessful attempt at supper, we wrapped ourselves in our cloaks, and lay down on the sand in order to obtain a little sleep. If the place of our repose was homely it was safe, for there was hardly a living thing but ourselves on the island. From some cause or other, however, our sleep was not of the most renovating kind, for we rose in the morning no more refreshed than when we laid down the preceding evening. One lesson, however, the pure air of the night had taught us, and that was not to be over fastidious in our eating; so, without any one requiring to invite or urge another, we betook ourselves to the ducks which had been despised on the evening before, and picked their bones clean, without a hint being expressed as to the necessity of more or better cooking. At nine in the morning we again embarked, and continued our course towards the main land, and at noon we had the pleasure of observing the gig following in our wake. Being less heavily laden she neared us, but not until we in the launch had succeeded in escaping a very serious, and, crowded as we were, a very appalling danger. We had run the launch into a horse-shoe reef, which tempting us so far with an apparently open passage, suddenly terminated in a *cul de sac*. We were in the bight before we observed our danger; had we been but one moment later we must all inevitably

have perished; and as it was we were saved only by exertions of almost superhuman vigour and perseverance. Our positive loss in this most hazardous matter was but small, being only the lower pintle of the rudder.

The gig had been unsuccessful in all her attempts to reach the mainland, and the white appearance which had been seen the previous evening had been, as surmised, a signal made by her crew. We felt very much relieved in finding that all lives were safe, and now being together once more we pushed on with new vigour. Captain Lowe took the pilot into the launch with him; and in the evening the boats were, for safety, run into a "sham" (a small opening in the reef), and we landed to pass the night as before. The name of this place was Salac, and here a diminished ration of water and damaged biscuit was served to each man, with a little pork to the Europeans; but not even the severe hunger which the natives must have been suffering could induce them to taste the smallest morsel of the pork. The hardships and privations which these men can bear, as well as their patience and power of endurance under them, are to a European truly wonderful.

This night we slept on the sand as we had done the preceding one; and on the morning of the 8th

we again embarked, and proceeded. By 4 P. M. we were quite exhausted, and halted to pass the night at Arachiar, another "sham." It now became indispensably necessary to set a strict watch over our water and provisions, as, notwithstanding all our care and economy, they were diminishing very fast. On this evening Captain Lowe distributed only a *very* little water to each person; and setting a noble example of self-denial, he scarcely tasted a drop himself.

We had now been for three days exposed to the burning sun in the boats, and had slept for three nights on the sand. Our thirst had become almost insupportable, but as we had no means of allaying it, we were forced to endure it as we best could. By an observation at noon on the 8th, the latitude appeared to be 19° 56′. On the morning of the 9th we embarked betimes and pursued our way, sorely parched by thirst, and sadly altered by anxiety, fatigue, and exposure to the sun; but still, relying upon that Power which had saved us in our more imminent perils, we did the best to comfort each other, and pushed on with all our remaining vigour and skill.

At noon this day we found the latitude to be only 19° 13′, or 43′ less than at noon on the preceding day. This was a most agreeable surprise to us, and

enlivened us not only by the hope that we should escape all the perils of the Red Sea reefs, but with full confidence that the hour of our safety was much nearer at hand than we had anticipated. In two hours' time we came in sight of the island of Suakin; in one hour more we rounded the fort, and at half-past three we landed safely and in health, after the night of horror in the brig, and the four days' exposure and excessive fatigue in the boats: I am not ashamed to own that my first impulse on reaching the land was to breathe a heartfelt though silent thanksgiving to Almighty God, for preservation from the horrors of shipwreck, and the still more agonizing, because more prolonged, pangs of famine, which must have overtaken us had we been much longer in the boats.

CHAPTER II.

JOURNEY ACROSS THE NUBIAN DESERT, FROM SUAKIN TO BERBER.

In this chapter I shall have to speak of myself in a situation somewhat novel for an Englishman and a sailor, as crossing the desert of Nubia by a route hitherto unpassed by any of my countrymen, and as exchanging my professional ship of the ocean for "the ship of the desert," the camel.

Upon landing at Suakin we were very kindly received by the governor. The coffee and hookahs, the usual marks of friendly attention, were produced, and, what was more urgently needed, and therefore more judiciously furnished, a supply of water. A house was also granted for our abode during our sojourn, the upper part for the officers, and the lower for the men, enclosed in a small walled yard, by which intruders could be kept back if necessary.

Large jars were filled with water for the use of the men, and Captain Lowe purchased a bag of dates for the natives; the governor presented a

bullock for the Europeans, which was forthwith killed and dressed, and both dates and bullock speedily vanished. It seems, however, that in all countries there are people who make it their business to prey upon those who have suffered misfortunes, by selling inadequate relief at an exhorbitant price; for the inhabitants made us pay at a most extravagant rate for every thing we purchased, and in the end we found that the kindness of the governor was not dictated by the spirit of beneficence. Men, however, who have just escaped the utmost perils of the sea, are not in the very best possible frame of mind for resisting impositions upon land; gratitude is so much uppermost with them that they are even apt to bestow a portion on the very parties who are plundering them. We were, however, disposed to enjoy ourselves to the full extent of our means; and so a bottle or two of champaign, which had been saved from the captain's stock, and which we had resolutely abstained from touching while in the launch, were devoted to the honours of the day. It happened to be my birthday, and as it was one which had given life to us all when life had become doubtful, it was to all a day of rejoicing, and to no other could the few bottles of wine be with more propriety devoted.

We who were for Europe dedicated the next two

days to making preparations for crossing the desert from the point where we were to the Nile. The route from Suakin to Berber had never before been attempted by Europeans, but we were assured that it *was* practicable could we endure the privations and fatigue attendant on the attempt; but it must have been a difficult path indeed on land that could have damped the courage of men so recently and unexpectedly saved (as we had been) from a watery grave. In the mean time Captain Lowe was as busily occupied in preparing three Arab boats to return to the wreck, in order to save as many of the stores as possible. We land travellers (that is Mr. Lynch, Mr. Mill, late advocate general at Bombay, Mr. Smith, and myself), upon whom now lay no part of the burden of the ship, had only to make the requisite arrangements for our journey; and as part of these we purchased the whole stock of *old clothes* belonging to a Moorish merchant, at a price so extravagant that it might have sufficed to furnish him with a succession of new habiliments, even though he should outlive the longest lived patriarch of his race.

In the intervals of these preparations we had leisure to look at the island of Suakin, and to afford the wondering part of its population an opportunity of looking at us, of which they seemed disposed to take every advantage. The island is small, not above

a third of a mile in any of its dimensions, and it has not much to recommend it as a spot of ground; however, as it was to us an haven of refuge, I shall always bear it in grateful remembrance. Behind the port, or on the landward side of the island, there is a Nubian town, which, if we may judge from the numbers which crowded from thence to see us during our stay, must be very populous; for the fabulous interest which Gulliver excited in Lilliput is hardly greater in story than the wonder which we caused in the island of Suakin was in reality. Among our visitors there were several *dandies*, who showed that however dandyism may vary in its details, the principle is the same among all nations, and under all degrees of civilization.

Not the most finished exquisite of London or of Paris can view his trappings with more self-complacent consciousness of the superiority of dress above all things, than the woolly-headed dandies of Nubia view the copious plaisterings of tallow which load their frizzled pates; and hair powder, even in the prime of its glory, was not felt more genteel by the wearer than a yellow dusting of apparently the powder of sandal-wood is worn by some of the fashionables by the Red Sea. That powder, too, combined with the tallow (somewhat aged and venerable in the smell,) wafts around the wearer an odour which

would set at defiance all the distillers of essences on our side the pyramids of Egypt.

Each of these men carried a bent stick, and all were so exactly of the same bend and size that they must be artificial; a very crooked creese was a weapon worn by all, and some had, in addition, heavy and unwieldy swords.

Of females, especially young ones, we saw only a few; but those that we did see gave us no very elevated notions of Nubian beauty, taste, or cleanliness. They had their hair plaited into innumerable tails, and plastered with the same savoury ointment as that of the male dandies. There were two coffee-houses in Suakin, to which we made several visits, finding that the way in which we could, with the least annoyance to ourselves, gratify the desire of the people to look at us.

When we were making preparations for our departure, the ameer, or civil governor, an Arab, intimated to Captain Lowe the necessity of a present, and that the sum expected was five hundred dollars. A demand made and the amount named, would be called by another name in Europe; but Arab governors are civil in words when they expect to profit by it. In order to render the demand of the five hundred dollars compulsory, the ameer declared that unless that sum was paid, the boats (which were to

return to the Nautilus on the reef) could have no water from his wells. A good deal of negociation followed, which was very clamorous on the part of the ameer, between whom and Captain Lowe, Mr. Lynch acted as interpreter; the amount was at last reduced to two hundred dollars, which Captain Lowe still regarded as wholly an imposition, and intimated that he would report it as such to the government at Bombay.

This affair being arranged, the officers and men took their departure. Lieutenant Bird commanded one boat, in which he carried the sick, the lame, and the lazy directly for Mocha; and Captain Lowe, with the rest of his officers and men, sailed, in three boats, for the wreck, to recover what property they could. A volunteer boat followed in their wake, to assist or to carry off what they could catch. Thus the seaward part of our company were all disposed of.

Having taken such farewell of our late shipmates as is felt and expressed by those only who have been providentially saved from dying together, we prepared for our own departure. Our camels and baggage were to be in readiness on the mainland, we having paid part of the hire in advance. We also hired as an escort a Turkish soldier, a native of Bagdad; then, dressing ourselves in Turkish costumes, the same which we had paid so well for from the Moorish

merchant, and being each armed with a sword and brace of pistols, and Lieutenants Lynch and Smith having likewise two double-barrelled guns, we repaired to the water-side to cross from the isle of Suakin to the mainland. Being detained there for the ameer, we paid a farewell visit to the military governor, with whom we dined; and after dinner we took boat for the opposite shore. On reaching it we had to land by means of a canoe half filled with water; we found the camels with their loads all divided and adjusted, and every thing in readiness for the desert. As we were about to mount, a heavy squall of wind and rain came on, which drenched us to the skin; and as it was beginning to get dark, we sent the camels forward in advance, and half-walking, half-wading, we reached the guard-house at Caafe, which is placed there for the prevention of smuggling.

The officer on duty presented us with coffee and tobacco as usual, only we had pipes in place of hookahs; and having enjoyed them for a little while, we lay down, all wet as we were, to obtain some rest, by which means I caught a pretty severe cold, but I had other occupation than nursing it.

The provisions we had laid in for our hazardous expedition (which was estimated at about twelve days' journey from Suakin to Berber) consisted of rice, flour, dhourra (a kind of grain), dates, coffee.

ghee (butter clarified by melting), salt fish, and tobacco. Our cooking and mess utensils were two pots, one gridle, two coffee pots, a few small coffee cups, and two or three calabash-rind bowls. To these necessaries we added a few small pieces of cloth, in case we should be inclined, as the Americans say, to "*do* a little trade" with the Bedouins of the desert. Bedouins, I may remark, are not a particular nation, but merely the Arabs of the desert who have no fixed place of abode.

Our little caravan consisted of Messrs. Lynch, Mill, Smith, and myself, clothed and equipped as before mentioned, I being appointed "minister of finance," and Mr. Lynch "interpreter general of the unknown tongues." We made four; then came Mr. Lynch's Arab servant, one Turkish soldier, a sheik, a guide, and six camel-drivers, armed with spears, shields, and creeses, making in all fourteen persons. Our travelling "machinery" consisted of ten camels.

On the morning of the 13th of December, we presented the guard with three dollars for their hospitality; and thus mustering and thus appointed, we mounted our camels and rode to a short distance from Caafe, where there is a well, at which we halted to fill the water-skins.

At this place, I was glad to take the opportunity

of dismounting, in order to get my seat adjusted, as I found otherwise I might not have skin enough to last me to the end of the journey, and European skin is not easily replaced in an African desert.

Those who are unacquainted with the motion of camel-riding, find it at first very uneasy. The animal kneels till mounted, and then rises on its hind-legs, so that the rider is in danger (and more fear) of being jerked forward over the ears, with the load on the top of him—a species of involuntary alighting which, before we reached the Nile, happened more than once to each of us.

Having made my seat as commodious as possible, we again mounted and pursued our journey till about the middle of the day, when, halting to take some refreshment, we found that our "table service," our calabash bowls, were—left behind at Caafe. The wind blowing strong, seasoned our repast somewhat abundantly with African sand; but the said sand cannot be an unwholesome "condiment," as the great quantity we were obliged to swallow did us no harm.

At night, the sand was to be our bed, our cloaks our covering, the lee of a hill (if there should be one where we halted) our shelter, and the canopy of Heaven our tent.

The first day we made but thirteen miles, though

we were on our camels for six hours, so that I began to fear that we should have more camel-riding for our money than was either pleasant, or, in haste as I was, profitable.

We had arranged to keep watch; and as I, on these occasions, looked on our little partly in the desert and thought of home, my reflections were of the most anxious character. I had none of the excitement of him who traverses the desert in quest of the glory of discovery, or the fame of a traveller; but a disappointed man "cast away" in the wilds of Africa, and my only wish to get out of them as speedily as possible.

On the 14th, we mounted at 7 A. M., passed through a Bedouin burying-ground, and soon after came to a place where we observed water oozing through the sand. Here I washed myself and my worsted stockings, by which both were much improved; and it was the more necessary, as opportunities of the kind might be but few.

The place where the water oozed out seemed to be the meeting of the different strata at the base of the hills. From this point our road was one continued ascent the whole day; so steep in many places that we were obliged to alight and walk; but the scenery was fine and picturesque, and not without traces of sublimity, so that we bore our fatigue with

less feeling of it. The air on the hills was of course much cooler than on the shore of the Red Sea; and when the dew of the evening was heavy, we felt it quite chilly; but the heat of the sun during the day was still intense.

On the 16th, we stopped at a Bedouin encampment, upon which occasion our Mahomedan sheik showed some disposition to turn Jew; by wishing to purchase for us a bullock at what we estimated to be about three times its value. Not being able to prevail on us to deal in that way, he purchased it himself at a price unknown to us, and offered to supply us with the meat as we required. The method he used to preserve it, was to cut the flesh off the bones into strips, and dry it in the sun whenever we halted. I leave my readers to imagine the quantity of mastication this delicate kind of food required. He also bought of the same party a young unbroken camel.

When we had got some distance into the interior, the heat, and especially the dryness of the atmosphere, became excessive, and very distressing and painful to bear. All moisture being drained from the skin, there was no evaporation to cool it; and, in consequence, it became dry and wrinkled like old parchment. Complexion was of course gone, and one of my companions was sorely afflicted lest the delicacy of his hands should never return. If I had

not done at last, what probably I ought to have done at first, anointed myself pretty copiously with ghee, my skin would literally have cracked in pieces.

On the 17th, our guide amused himself in breaking in, as we rode along, the young camel, which the sheik had purchased. In this he appeared to be very skilful, retaining with ease on the wild and skittish animal that seat, which we felt no very easy matter on ours which were thoroughly broken.

Our Turkish soldier was of considerable use to us in cooking, but made his fingers and thumb substitutes for too many things to be quite agreeable with European notions of cleanliness. In dividing, preparing, and stewing our different messes, and in cleaning the cups and other vessels, there was but the one constant and *handy* machine.

On the 18th, we came to a scene of rather a picturesque character, as exhibiting the Bedouin in the joint character of farmer and grazier. There was a large patch of dhourra, and near it numerous flocks of sheep and goats, with abundance of camels. Soon after passing this productive and well-stocked spot, we arrived at the well "Shidhee." The water was not tempting, but we were forced to make use of it, and here we found that our "service of China" had been left behind at the last stopping place, so that we had now to drink our coffee out of a mustard-pot,

which, combined with the skin in which the coffee was carried, and the additional flavour imparted to it by the Turk's dirty fingers, the aroma of that beverage was by no means improved.

The same evening the camels were watered, being the first time since we left Suakin, and the sixth evening of our journey in the desert. Near the same place we met with some very miserable and dirty-looking Bedouin shepherds; but their sheep were in better condition than themselves, so we "did a little trade" with them, waiting till they milked their ewes, and giving them dhourra in exchange for the milk.

20th. Travelled for several hours over ridges of rocks, among which were numerous antelopes, the light gracefulness of whose forms, and the fleetness of their bounding, gave a wonderful expression of life to the desert. The same evening we were threatened with a civil war, as our guide fancied that one of the party had insulted him, but Mr. Lynch, who was a good peace-maker as well as interpreter, contrived to heal the breach before it had produced blows.

On the 22nd, we reached the well "Al Bâk," the water of which we found so delicious that we resolved to make every possible use of it. We drank, we filled the skins, we watered the camels, we washed ourselves, and I gave a second ablution to my stockings, including this time my flannel waistcoat also.

We soon entered upon a deep, heavy plain of sand, over which our progress was slow and excessively fatiguing, so much so, that we began to despair of soon reaching Berber, which, however, we were fortunate enough to accomplish on the 24th, having been twelve days on the way, and journeying 264 miles in 84½ hours, being on the average of seven hours each day, at a little more than three miles an hour.

COURSES AND DISTANCES FROM SUAKIN TO BERBER.

Courses set by a pocket compass; the distances estimated by time.

Dates.	Courses.	Miles.	Hours.	Remarks.
Dec. 13.	W. by S.	13	6	Filled water-skins.
14.	West.	20	7½	Water in pools scooped by the hand.
15.	S.W. by W. ½ W.	30	8	Well Ochock (good water.
16.	S.W. ½ W.	10	3¼	Bedouin encampment.
17.	W. by S.	23	7¼	Guide breaking camel.
18.	W. by S.	22	5½	Well Skidhee (water bad, watered camels).
19.	W. by N.	25	8¾	
20.	W. by N. ½ N.	27	9¼	Rocks, Antelopes.
21.	W. by N. ½ N.	29	9¼	
22.	W. by N.	25	8¼	Well Al Bâk (uncertain in summer.)
23.	West.	32	9¼	Deep sand.
24.	West.	8	2¼	Reached Berber.
	Total	264	84½	

CHAPTER III.

FROM BERBER TO KROOSKO.

HAVING made our toilet in the morning before starting, that we might appear to the best advantage on our arrival at Berber, we rode directly up to the Governor's house, in order to pay our respects to his Excellency, who received us very politely, and invited us to breakfast and dinner. Each of these meals being merely a repetition of the other. We had wooden spoons for the soup, or stew, which is, in these parts, as universal in its use as its ingredients; but for every thing more solid, it was finger-work.

Resolving to improve our costume, we sent for the "Stultz" of Berber, who speedily made his appearance, armed with a huge pair of shears, as the emblem of his craft. There being no "trades' unions" nor "strikes" in Nubia, and neither men nor tailors finding it safe to combine there, and stand out against their superiors, we were speedily fitted in the last new monthly fashion for "gentlemen" at Berber.

Here we discharged our conveyance and escort, paying the balance of the hire of our camels, giving a present of five dollars to the sheik and two to the guide; of course, according to the custom of the country, they were neither of them satisfied. After twelve days, travelling over dry sand and mouldering rocks, with wells, scanty and "few and far between," one of the chief objects of attraction for us at Berber was the Nile. Even in the days of our boyhood we are all familiar with its fame; and three short months before my arrival at Berber, how little did I dream of ever seeing it in *propria persona!* Even here it is a noble river.

Berber is a place of considerable magnitude and importance. It lies in the direct route from the Red Sea at Suakin, by which there is considerable trade carried on in Surat piece-goods, sandal-wood, and perfumes; the return for which is slaves and dates, and the duty is one-tenth *ad valorem.* There is also a considerable trade with Abyssinia in elephants' teeth, wax, gold, and slaves.

Near the town there is an indigo manufactory, established ten years ago by Mahomet Ali Pacha, to which we paid a visit. The levying of the most productive taxes, and the monopoly of such articles as are most in demand, seem to be well understood in this part of the world. Water for irrigating the land

cannot be obtained but on payment of a heavy tax; and coffee, wax, and tobacco are monopolies belonging to the Pacha.

25th, Christmas day.—My thoughts, which had all along been much of home, ran more in that channel than usual; and I am not sure that, when I sat down on the mud floor to our uncivilized dinner, I did not half envy my boy his plum pudding and minced pies, which I at the same time felt sure he was enjoying with true schoolboy zest. I must, however, have the candour to admit, that though our Christmas dinner fell far short of the good things which are "common to all" in merry England, yet we had the best that Berber afforded, from the principal person of the place, and with the all-qualifying accompaniment of a hearty welcome.

Nor were we without our Christmas amusement—the best and most unique, no doubt, which the place afforded; for while we sat conversing in the "darkness visible," "made pale and dreadful" by one solitary candle, the governor produced a musical snuff-box. When it began to play, his attendants crowded into the apartment, as to enjoy a treat which was free to all, which gave us a very favourable impression of the character of our host, proving him to be no churl or monopolist of happiness. He showed a good deal of skill in the use of his instrument, shifting it

from place to place as the vibrations of that on which it rested brought out its different tones with the greatest effect. Nor was the most wondering of his domestics apparently better pleased with the treat thus offered them, than Abbas Aga himself appeared to be with the feeling that he had it in his power to make others happy. The differences of means and mode are accidental circumstances, dependent upon country and custom, in which the individual himself can have little merit or demerit. But the love of seeing others happy is a noble virtue implanted in the heart of man by man's Maker; and though it appeared to us only in small things, we saw enough to convince us that if Abbas Aga had been a "gentleman of England," he would have been one of the ornaments of the country.

When we had sufficiently enjoyed the cheer and the efforts to amuse of the amiable governor, we went to the store of a French merchant, who gave us *café au lait* and some date brandy. A small quantity of the latter he purchased for our use; but owing to the ardour either of the climate or of our own domestics, or to both, it very speedily evaporated.

After a night of sound repose, we went to breakfast, as usual, with the hospitable governor, who, by way of especial treat, presented the party with a

sheep roasted whole. This was, of course, no wooden spoon-meat; and so there was such tugging at it, that we were in some danger of successively having it in our laps. Then came meat, vegetables, pillau, &c., forming, no doubt, the very acme of Nubian good living.

During the day we began to make preparations for our journey, by purchasing of our friend the French merchant, provisions, water-skins, and other necessaries. He seemed by no means particular as to the kind of articles in which he dealt, human beings being not an uncommon commodity with him. In that, however, he had the "custom of merchants" to plead as an excuse.

The brother of Toorkey Belmoss, the rebel chief of Mocha, was in custody at Berber. He was at Cairo when his brother wrote to intimate his revolt from the Pacha, and his intention not to appear at Jidda, the head-quarters. Upon this he disguised himself as a merchant, purchased goods, and came up to Berber, with the intention of proceeding by way of Suakin to join his brother at Mocha, the first favourable opportunity. But he had been recognised and detained at Berber until the Pacha's intentions should be known; and orders had arrived, but had not yet been put in execution, for sending him to Cairo, where, in all probability, the pleasure of the Pacha

would be to take off his head, without inquiry into the extent or even the reality of his guilt.

There was also another man in custody for having shot two Turks in a fit of jealousy. He had found them paying attention to his sultana, in terms which he did not altogether approve; and having recourse to "the ultimate argument," he discharged his pistols at their heads. One was killed on the spot, and the other desperately wounded. The rebel and the manslayer were kept safely but not closely, as they were allowed to quit the prison during the day, but so loaded with irons that they could not easily make their escape.

If one were to judge from the wondering curiosity which those of our party who wore English hats or caps excited in Berber, one might be led to imagine that there was really something unnatural in their appearance, the natives did us the honour to compare them to their own cooking pots. I avoided this particular and by no means flattering notice by wearing a turban—a species of "head-gear" which there is some craft and mystery in putting on *well* and *becomingly*. This I acquired by careful study under "the first masters," and although not a male ornament with us, as it is sometimes worn by the fair sex, I shall feel most happy during my stay in England to initiate any lady into the secret of giving it the *true*

oriental twist, nor will I demand a *very* exorbitant fee for my trouble.

On the evening before our departure, we called upon the hospitable governor, to take our leave of him; who gave us coffee and pipes, and furnished us with an introductory letter to the commanding officer at Assouan. It would have been difficult not to like the kind-heartedness of Abbas Aga; but there were some of his habits to which an Englishman is not easily reconciled, especially that of discharging his expectoration with a loud report, against the opposite wall. In this, he did not make the same apology as was once made to me by a Yankee, in America, when he apprehended that, "the line of his fire" had passed rather near me:—"I guess I cleared you, Mister?" said the Yankee; but Abbas Aga said nothing, probably thinking no apology necessary.

I forgot to mention that we had *government* lodgings at Berber, consisting of two small apartments, or rather pigeon-holes, over the *prison;* but they, too, were given us in kindness.

We hired two servants at Berber; Ghaleel (the Beloved), a stout Egyptian, as servant of all work, in place of Mr. Lynch's Arab (Hassan), who was ill; and Mahomet, as cook. We also laid in a new "service of china," consisting of six coffee cups.

Thus manned and refitted, we remounted, on the 27th, amid the almost intolerable din of camels and their drivers, the master of the coffee-house adding to the clamour by vociferating that we had not given him enough; but I had now too much experience in such matter for laying out a single para in purchasing his silence.

Our route lay along the right (or east) bank of the Nile, which is flat. We passed several villages, and also islands in the river. The latter were beautifully green, and, to all appearance, highly cultivated. The people appear to pay much attention to culture, especially to irrigation; and we saw a number of wheels for raising water for that purpose. About five P. M., we stopped at a sheik's house, which was little else than a walled yard.

On the 28th, we journeyed along the bank of the Nile till noon, the river having now become shallow and rapid. At this place we purchased a sheep for five piastres (1s. 4d. sterling), which was forthwith killed and cooked for dinner. After our repast, we pursued our journey; and, leaving the Nile on our left (to which hand it here takes a turn), we entered the desert, and halted for the night in the district of Baguer, very much fatigued, having performed a a journey of thirty-six miles.

On the 29th, we resumed our march, and again

came upon the right bank of the river, still increasing in rapidity and shallowness, so much as not to be navigable at the season when we were there. We rested for a short time under some date and "doom" trees, the fruit of the latter tasting like gingerbread. At this place a sheik complained bitterly to us of the injury which the country had sustained from the domination and arrival of the Turks. "Think you," said he, pulling himself up and displaying a costume, unknown alike to rank and dandyism,—"think you, that I dressed in *this way* before *they* came?" His dress, like the genuine ancient garb of the Scotch Highlanders, consisted of a single piece of cloth, which, however, he could adjust in various ways. He had set the example of cropping his hair, which had not been generally followed, as many of the men who came to look at us had their heads dressed in the true Nubian fashion.

In the evening of this day we arrived at a village, where we found that there was nothing eatable to be bought,—not the most agreeable intelligence for weary and hungry travellers. We were told that the people near the river cultivated lupins in abundance, as an article of food; and we should have been satisfied with that "hermit's fare;" but even that we could not procure.

On the 30th, we arrived at Al Hassan, where we

found a small caravan of slaves on their way to Kroosko. Most of the females were very plain, which appears to be either generally the case in the countries whence those slaves came, or else the ugly ones are sold and the beauties retained in order to improve the race in future generations.

Another caravan soon after arrived, with three horses and a colt for the service of the Pacha. Of this last a Turkish lady formed part. Her person, with the exception of the hands, was so completely veiled and muffled up, that we had not the means of contrasting her beauty with the "displayed" daughters of the south; but she assumed superiority so far as to monopolise all the milk, for which we, very ungallantly, wished that she had been travelling any other route.

Finding Al Hassan a dirty and miserable place, we resolved to leave it in the middle of the night; but although such had been our orders on the preceding evening, we found no small difficulty in arousing our guide and his party. At last we succeeded, and mounted; but, it blew a gale from the north, which pinched us severely with cold, and must have almost benumbed the poor natives, who had merely a piece of cloth rolled round their bodies. Several hints about alighting, and kindling a fire were thrown out, but we would not understand them, and pushed on.

About noon, as I was "bumping" away in front of the party, being now something of a "cameleer," and meditating with all the wisdom which the galling permitted, upon what part of the globe, habitable or uninhabitable, my varying destiny might next cast me, I was awaked from reverie to reality by a most Babylonish clamour in the rear. I instantly turned, never doubting that we should have to wage battle with a whole horde of Bedouins. But the tumult belonged to the class of civil strifes. Ghaleel, the Beloved, but certainly not the gentle, had hurt his pride by an awkward tumble from his camel; and perceiving what he thought a derisive grin on the countenance of one of the camel-drivers, he instantly "poured the balm of revenge into pride's unseemly wound," by flooring the grinning driver. Lynch interfered, and made the Beloved apologise to the prostrate adversary, which, from the sulky manner in which it was done, evidently opened the wound anew. But the Beloved now applied only that all-healing balsam, patience; and without accident or farther strife we reached Bosahmet, or Abu Hamet, where we were to rest before entering the desert. Here the Nile commences its great bend to the southward and westward.

As this is a regular halting-place for caravans, both up and down the river, we found a caravanserai. This caravanserai was walled in, and had a

round tower at each of the two opposite corners. Its accommodations and cleanliness were not quite to our taste, but they probably suited the place—preparing the downward traveller for the hardships of the desert, and impressing those hardships upon the memory of the upward one.

The house into which we were shewn was already fully occupied by a company of black merchants from Berber, who maintained their position with great vigour—of words. Their argument was, that we were "English, not Turks;" and the inference, of course, that Englishmen had too much sense of justice for wishing to eject from a building erected for the public use those who were in lawful possession. We yielded, and retreated to one of the towers, and found a hole at which we could enter, and a floor to lie on, but no contrivance for closing the said hole, so that we were, in our turn, invaded by clouds of dust, which we had no means of ejecting, and to which we, in our turn, could not appeal as "English."

About 4 P. M. we contrived to get something to eat; and having ascertained that provisions were scarce, we resolved to make the one meal serve as breakfast, dinner, and supper; so about seven we stretched ourselves on the floor, in the hope of sleeping 1833 *out* and 1834 *in*. But we tossed and rolled

on our hard couch to little effect, and rose at six in the morning of January 1, not more refreshed on meeting the new year than on wishing to take farewell of the old.

Comfortless as the place was, we found that we must stay for some time; the desert, of several days' journey, lay before us, and the camels required rest. Our guide, too, showed some finesse in attempting to protract our stay. At one time, "a camel was missing;" again, "his brother the sheik would be some time in getting the provisions ready;" and lastly, "large caravans were expected, in company with which we could cross the desert with far more safety." The secret of all this, or at least of great part of it, was that the guide was a native of the place, his wife resided here, and he was an affectionate husband. Even that, however, was lost upon us, or rather, perhaps, it made us think of *our own homes*, and become more eager to depart.

We began to make preparations by adjusting the water-skins, and ordering bread to be baked; and while the latter was in progress, we went out to examine the market, and take one more view of the all-fertilizing Nile, before we again left it for the desert.

There were, by the bank of the river, for sale at the market, some Abyssinian female slaves just ar-

rived. As usual, they were very plain; but with a single exception in this case; for there was one young girl that had the most mild and pensive expression of countenance I ever beheld. This interesting young creature might be any body's property for the sum of *forty dollars*. These females were but scantily clothed; the whole of their costume consisting of pieces of leather fastened round the waist, cut into thongs, and about fourteen or sixteen inches long.

Returning to the town, or rather village, we purchased some joints of meat, and were fortunate in so doing, as our guide's brother, the sheik, not merely delayed the promised supply, but failed in it altogether; so that but for our own providing, which was rather accidental at the time, we should have fared but poorly in the wilderness.

On the 2d of January (1834), we again mounted and rode forward. Our journey across the desert was more severe and fatigueing, both for man and beast, than that from Suakin to Berber. The sun, by day, beat upon us with so much ardour, that it not only withered the surface of our bodies, by draining every drop of moisture, but absolutely scorched our vitals; while the night wind, though so cold as to be painful by the contrast, was equally dry and withering; and we had often to endure it stretched on the sand, without the shelter of even a hillock or

a stunted shrub. Our strength and patience during this journey were both put to a severe trial; but as it was monotonous, being a mere alternation of burning sun and biting wind, as day and night succeeded each other, I need not endanger the patience of the reader by narrating the uniformly dismal steps of our progress.

The journal of our pilgrimage in the desert was, by this time, very legibly written, both in our persons and features; so that, if there had been looking-glasses there, we might have questioned our own identity. I, for one, was certainly not the "stout gentleman," who took shipping at Bombay only two short months before, and, no doubt, the others were equally altered. But though friends, our eyes were not good mirrors to each other, as the change, great as it was, had been gradual, and each was the same to each, though all would have appeared very different to self-inspection.

During the eight days which we spent in passing this desert, we did contrive *once* to cleanse ourselves and wash the few garments we possessed at the well called Murat Springs; but any of the more Christian comforts of the toilette were out of the question. Indeed I am not sure that we did not all begin to feel rather proud of our beards, upon the same principle that the deformed are very often conceited of

their persons, namely, that of learning to like what cannot be got rid of. My beard had grown most vigorously since it last underwent the operation of the scissors (razors were out of both "kit" and question), and I cherished a pair of mustachios that would have made the fortune of any lancer in the service of his Britannic Majesty, or of any potentate upon earth.

On our passage along this dreary waste, we saw the bones of but one human being bleaching in the sun and wind. But the skeletons of camels were numerous, it being a most severe and trying passage for even those patient and enduring animals. Our little caravan added to the number; we abandoned one, with its fore-feet tied, as the best means of rendering its inevitable death more speedy. The moans of these creatures are most affecting; and though they cannot *articulate*, they *speak*, and that powerfully, to the feelings. Forgetting my "bumping" and tumbles, and bearing in mind only how they serve others and suffer themselves, I had some thoughts in my old age, in remembrance of this journey, of keeping a pet camel. Fortunately we had no hostile visit from the Bedouins; but if we had, it would, notwithstanding our being armed, have probably been fatal, as the Bedouins of that desert always make their appearance in large bodies. But though we had no attack, we had one alarm; while we were at quarters,

one night, under the dark mountain of Gurreebat, there was an uproar in our camp, which we found originated with Ghaleel the Beloved. Such seemed to be this man's innate love of "a row," that, if he could not find one ready made, he lost no opportunity of making one himself. On this occasion he had thought proper to warm himself by flogging one of the drivers, for abstracting a biscuit from the stock, of which he, as our servant of all-work, had more immediate charge; but Lieutenant Lynch made matters even by flogging him, and tranquillity was again restored in our camp.

The seventh day of our march in this desert was no day of rest to us; but still it was one in which hope began to brighten, and we redoubled our exertions, trusting that by efforts more than common we should be able to reach Kroosko in another day, where, launching ourselves on the bosom of old Father Nilus, we might bid a last adieu to the desert and its rocking ship. On the following day our road lay through rocks, was often steep and difficult, and exceedingly winding, so that our fatigue was great; and but for the hope of its being soon at an end, we must have sunk under it. We toiled on, however, and soon after nightfall we reached the "happy valley;" and I need not add with what pleasure we entered the town of Kroosko, the guide desiring us to

fire off our pistols to announce an arrival of importance.

We had crossed the last desert in eight days, being two days less than, according to the accounts we had received, it had been ever crossed in before. The estimated distance is two hundred and nineteen miles, which we had performed in seventy-three hours, being exactly three miles an hour.

Our total journey now stood thus: from Suakin to Berber, 264 miles in twelve days, resting at Berber two days; from Berber to Boshamet, or Abu Hamet, along the right bank of the Nile, 131 miles, in five days, or forty-one hours, resting at Abu Hamet two days; and journey from Abu Hamet to Kroosko, 219 miles, in eight days, or seventy-three hours. Total, 613 miles, performed in twenty-five days, or, including four days' stoppages, twenty-nine days.

COURSES AND DISTANCES FROM ABU HAMET TO KROOSKO.

Dates.	Courses.	Miles.	Hours.	Remarks.
Jan. 3.	N.N.W.	24	8	
4.	N.N.W.	5	1 40	
4.	N.b.W.	21	7 30	
5.	N.b.W.	26	9 10	
6.	N.b.W.	27	9 15	Well Murat.
7.	N.b.W.	22	8	
8.	N.b.W. ½ W.	28	9	
9.	N.N.W.	13	4 35	
9.	N.b.W.	15	4 30	
10.	N.N.W.	38	11 20	At Kroosko.
	Total Miles	219	73 0	hours.

CHAPTER IV.

FROM KROOSKO TO CAIRO.

THE evening being far advanced when we reached Kroosko, we had some difficulty in getting the Effendi to make his appearance; but at last a little withered and wizard-looking old man, with sore eyes, became visible, and, after no inconsiderable demur, gave us leave to roost for the night with the pigeons at the top of his house. He kept hundreds of these birds, which are very common all along the banks of the Nile. To make some distinction, however, a mat was spread for us, a luxury which it did not appear the pigeons enjoyed; and thus we were *sumptuously* accommodated for the night. Nor was it long before supper arrived in the form of the universal and perpetual stew. This time it *should* have been better than usual, by containing more meat than was customary. But all excited expectations, even from the beauty of a beauty, down to the savour of an African stew, seem raised to be disappointed, and so it hap-

pened with us. But, to make amends, a Turk furnished us with some date brandy, for which we were very thankful; and we then laid ourselves down to sleep, with feelings of greater comfort and security than we had yet *felt* in Africa.

From remembering nothing of the matter, I presume that I must have slept soundly in the early part of the night; and it was fortunate that I did so, for the pigeons aroused us at day-break, and we were glad to escape from their noise. Still we rose much refreshed, and sallied forth to examine the place.

The high rocks, through which we had been winding our way with no small difficulty and fatigue on the preceding evening, had a picturesque and imposing effect, when looked on from Kroosko. The river flowing in front of the town, bringing cultivation in its path, added considerably to the beauty of the surrounding scenery, which appeared to superior advantage in our eyes, coming as it did in such immediate succession after the parched and dreary desert, with its mouldering hills, and its bleaching bones, which had been our only prospect for eight days previous.

But the abundance was not equal to the picturesque beauty; and so, having purchased what few provisions we could, we hired a boat to carry us down the

Nile to Assouan (Syene), in which we embarked, and were in motion by 3 P. M. on the 11th.

Here the banks of the Nile are high and rocky, the current of the river running at about three miles an hour. Only the small stripe along the margin was under regular culture, and that seemed to be the portion from which the water had retired as the flood of the river had subsided. In the little patches among the rocks there were, however, some very fine date-trees in vigorous growth.

We drifted all night, the reis (captain) every now and then calling upon a man to row the boat off some shoal, or projecting point; and once, having got fairly aground, there was a most deafning outcry between the reis and his boatmen.

On the 12th the banks began to be interesting from the ruins situated on them. We first landed at a temple (Dhakæ), about fifty miles below Kroosko, and next at the artificial excavation of Kish Jerf Hassain, otherwise Gyrshe, inside which were six fine colossal statues, each twenty-five feet in height.

Continued drifting down the river all night as before, and landed at daybreak to see, at Kalapsche, a large temple, and artificial cave. Passed another small ruin, and towards evening arrived at Ghurtaus, where there is an immense square walled in; but the portico is the only part of the superstructure that

appears ever to have been completed. Soon after we passed a smaller temple, which had also never been finished, but of which the pillars were very beautiful. We continued our passage during the night, the boatmen singing at intervals, after the manner of the Venetian gondoliers. Their voices are not unmusical; and as the airs which they sing are plaintive, the effect, amid so many memorials of ancient grandeur, is strongly pathetic, and even melancholy.

On the 14th, just as morning streaked the east, we neared the celebrated island of Philœ; and as the dawn opened, we gazed with wonder upon those stupendous monuments of departed glory, which not the most eloquent tongue or the readiest pen can fitly describe. Philœ must be *seen*, and if seen it will also be *felt*. To descend the river on them is the way to see the two rows of pillars of the great temple to most advantage.

Mr. Smith and myself rode on donkeys to Assouan, our baggage following on camels; and Messrs. Lynch and Mill descended the river to see the "cataracts of the Nile," which are well known now to be no cataracts at any season, and into which, when the river is low, children descend for the amusement of travellers, with perfect impunity. I, who had looked down upon the boiling flood of Niagara, had no desire to see the rapids of the Nile.

On arriving at Assouan, we found the governor keeping the fast of Rhamazan in as quiet and innocent a manner as possible, by sleeping as many hours of the sunlight as he possibly could. We produced the Governor of Berber's letter of introduction; but the porter, even armed with that, did not dare to break in upon the slumbers of His Excellency; so we sauntered about the bazaar till the arrival of our friends, when we returned *en masse*, to storm the porter, and, if necessary, carry the governor by a *coup de main*. The former yielded at discretion; the latter as discreetly as possible, but apologized for the absence of the coffee and pipes, as no pious Mussulman could look upon them with safety to his soul, in Rhamazan—at least before sunset. We might lodge at his house; but the hint bore, that, for piety's sake, we must board ourselves; whereat we were somewhat grieved: but finding nothing more was to be obtained from this over-righteous governor, we made our bow to him, and while our never-failing stew was preparing, we sallied forth to the little island of Elephantina, opposite Assouan, to see some small, though interesting ruins; but scarcely had we reached them, when we were so beset with dozens of naked dirty children of both sexes, dunning us to purchase antiques, that taking a very cursory view of the island, we were glad to effect a hasty retreat, and

so returned to our quarters, just in time to see a most tempting dinner conveyed into our abstemious governor's apartments, but carrying with it, however, no blessing from us, his much disappointed visitors, as we sat ourselves down on the mud floor to our own unsophisticated stew.

Our cicerone to the ruins was an Egyptian, who said he had been in the service of Lord Belmore. The view both up and down the river is very pleasing, and the pious governor's country house, embosomed in a grove of date-trees, formed a good feature in the picture.

On our return to the town, we hired, for 300 piastres, a cangia (or boat), to take us to Cairo; and this vessel of the Nile possessed a cabin actually large enough for holding two of us at one and the same time. We also discharged our cook, in the hope of feeding more abundantly, and with fewer additions than he had sometimes made to the esculent part of our messes; for Mahomet not only thought proper to insert into our stew all that legally belonged to it, but also a great deal which did not; so that we even sometimes ran the risk of being actually poisoned.

We could not leave Assouan without seeing the quarry whence the obelisks of Luxor and Carnac were obtained:—*it is indeed the most stupendous of work-*

shops! Returning to town, we took our leave of the governor, secretly wishing him Rhamazan for life, and no sunset; and on the 15th we again embarked, with the wind right against us.

All night we floated down the river, rowing and drifting as the lazy boatmen listed. That night I made one in the cabin; but I was so nearly reduced to a level with the stew, that I determined on an outside berth in all future Nile sailing,—the only danger of which is the heavy dews.

In the morning we landed to cook our breakfast; Mr. Smith shot several partridges and pigeons, and some dozen of sparrows, all of which being transferred to the stew, they proved vastly superior to Mahomet's additions. Possessing two flannel articles of dress, which had been more successful in learning the customs of Nubia than I could have wished, I, after breakfast, flung one of them (not a *waistcoat*) into the Nile, as a votive offering, and stewed the other, not for the preservation of life, but for the procuring of death; and it is a question, which I leave to the casuists, whether Nile water cold, or Nile water boiling, was that morning the more murderous of the two.

16th.—Long crocodiles in the water, and long faces in the cangia, on account of its slow motion.

17th.—Landed at the stately ruins of Edfou, once

the noblest of temples—now the lumber-house of rubbish; people weaving in the courts, and on the top of the temple a village built of earthern pots and mud.

18th.—Land at Esnah. The magnificent portico there converted into a storehouse for grain, which is kept locked for the sake of *bucksheesh* (fee). The whole might be easily cleared, and would no doubt bring many antiquities to light. The pillars are finely formed, and have sustained but little injury. We met two Europeans at Esnah; the one a native of Gibraltar, the other a Saxon, and both surgeons in the pacha's army. They were on their route from Senaar to Cairo. One of them had in his suite an Abyssinian female, a genuine olive-coloured beauty. Esnah was the largest town we had yet arrived at, and had a well-supplied bazaar, of which we failed not to take advantage. I sauntered into a Coptic church, but should not have discovered that it was so without being informed. There were a few wretched daubs of pictures on the walls; among them St. George and the Dragon repeated several times over; and on one the Twelve Apostles appear in wigs, as much curled, convoluted, and twisted as Lord Brougham's most appropriate Chancery head-piece.

By the way, it is not a little curious that, in all the ancient Egyptian statues and figures sculptured upon

Egyptian monuments, the hair of the females is dressed in the very same fashion as the women of Nubia and Egypt wear it at the present time. Has this fashion, which is any thing but an elegant one, remained immutable amid the change of all else, or has it been abandoned and again revived?

On the 19th we landed at Luxor, now cruelly disfigured by mud huts. *One* obelisk still remains "alone in its glory." Luxor is supposed to be the oldest and purest specimen of Egyptian art, at the time when Thebes was the abode of kings. But there is no modern royalty or grandeur about Luxor. The court of the temple is 232 feet by 174; and in the centre of it the Arabs have built a tolerably sized village. From the remains of paintings on the walls of some of the chambers, which are obviously Christian, there is no doubt that part of the temple has at some far distant time been used as a church.

From Luxor we walked over to Carnac; and on our arrival we all with one accord stood still in silent amazement at the sublime grandeur of those imposing ruins. Nothing of ancient times comes up to them: nothing of modern times ever can. The principal entrance to the west is approached by an avenue of some hundred feet, formed of colossal sphinxes, standing so majestic in their desolation, that the traveller passes slowly between them with an im-

pression bordering on religious awe. Two obelisks very little injured, are still standing, and one has fallen. They are all larger than those at Luxor, though not so richly sculptured. I understand that the British government has offered ten thousand pounds to any one who will bring the largest of these obelisks from Carnac to England; and that Mahomet Ali Pacha has given his consent to its being so removed. If this information be correct, as I fear it is, the Pacha deserves the bowstring for his liberality; and, for their cupidity, the offerers of the bribe deserve very much the same reward.

The French, being *once* particularly expert at that kind of handicraft (although some compulsory restorations have somewhat unsettled their nerves), have already fetched away one from Luxor; but in this case they ran no risk, as the Pacha seems to like money better than monuments of antiquity, however ornamental or however honourable to that country, over which, for weal or for woe, he has been set up.

But though we may carry the mutilated remains of these noble monuments of ancient art, with vast labour and expense, to other parts of the world; and though we may there view them with amazement, yet the feelings with which we do so belong not to the same class, and come not from the same region of the heart, as when we look upon them in their own

native empire—in that land of which they are at once the highest honour and the deepest humiliation. Surrounded as they must be, in modern museums, by all the productions of modern art, and disjointed from all those relations which make them a portion of the world's history, their true identity is lost. Their home is on the shores of the glorious Nile; and there they should remain, till the world with all its wonders be swallowed up in chaos, and time itself shall be no more.

Bidding farewell, and probably for ever, to those extraordinary remains, which are the only ancient ruins on the eastern or right bank of the Nile, we embarked, and crossing the river, hired donkeys, and rode to "the tombs of the kings." We saw what are called Bruce's and poor Belzoni's, besides one or two of smaller dimensions. Belzoni's we, of course, found the most perfect, though even that has been much injured by travellers, more especially by Champollion, the French trafficker in hieroglyphics. Tradition says that there were originally forty of these tombs, of which nineteen or twenty have been opened.

Among these royal sepulchres we met with a Mr. Hay, who lives in one of them; and he pointed out to us a curious picture of a king addressing the goddess *Horos*, a hawk-faced lady. At the lower end

of Belzoni's tomb, I found an Englishman, of the name of Pennithorne, busily engaged in copying; and here also we met with Mr. Bartholemew, a missionary, and Mr. Pigott, a young Irishman, both of whom were on their travels down the Nile. They very kindly gave us a small supply of wine, rum, and biscuits.

On the 20th, we again mounted donkeys, and rode to view the Memnonium. Saw the two colossal statues (the learned have not yet settled the one that is the true Memnon, which sung, or played, to the rising sun). They are both thrown down and very much mutilated. From thence we went to Medinet Abou, where the ruins are beautiful and of large dimensions. The area alone is a hundred and forty-four feet from north to south, and a hundred and twenty-three from east to west, entirely surrounded by very lofty pillars, sculptured in the finest style. From Medinet Abou we went to see the famous sitting statues. They are of most gigantic size; and, in the very best taste, are placed with their faces toward the Nile; but the features are quite lost by mutilation.

From the contemplation of these great glories of the olden time, we were forced at last to return to our small cangia on the river; but we found the attractions of that not a little heightened by a present

of some very choice wine, which had been sent to us by Mr. Hay. And now, for the first time on our passage down the Nile, the wind became fair, and the sail was hoisted in order to take advantage of it; but it soon returned to its old station, and forced us again to have recourse to the oars.

In the course of the night we landed at Kenah, a place of considerable importance, as being the point on the Nile from which communication is usually made to Cossier on the Red Sea, which, from the Pacha having monopolized all the camels on the Suez line, was, at the time of our visit, the most frequented route. At Kenah I had the luxury of a bath, which, as it was novel in style, at least to me, I shall briefly notice. The *patient* is at first taken into an apartment, fitted up with beds ranged around on a raised place; he is there stripped, and a piece of cloth put round him, then taken into a hot room, where he remains a short time, and from thence into the bath room, a square apartment capable of holding eight or ten people. Several persons with mahogany-coloured skins were undergoing purification when I was introduced; they seemed surprised, but in nowise disconcerted, at my appearance. The bath is always kept at a great heat by a constant supply of hot water from the upper part of the wall, and when you are ready you step into it, and are almost

boiled; but there you must remain until your cook thinks you sufficiently done. When that is the case, you come out, are laid on your face, and are scrubbed all over from head to foot behind; then turned over, like a pig in the process of being scraped, and the same operation is performed in front. The scrubbing is done with a mitten or glove made of hair. When it is over, you are made to sit down, and are lathered all over with soap; after which you return to the bath to wash that off. Freed of the soap, you are taken into the first apartment, laid down, covered with a shawl or camaleen till you gradually cool, which completes the operation. I certainly came out a new man, in more respects than one; but, as usual in that country, there was no satisfying the parties in the way of pecuniary payment, till I threatened to prove upon them the good effects of the bath by giving them satisfaction of another sort.

This declaration tended at once to end the dispute; and the matter being arranged, we again took to our boat, and crossed the river to the ruins of Denderah, which are considered the most perfect existing monuments of ancient Egypt. The twenty-four columns which form the portico are truly superb; and the whole is enclosed in a square wall, whose side is 1000 feet: in some places it is 35 feet high, and 15 feet thick.

No words can express the feeling with which a spectator first looks upon these wonderful remains of pure gigantic architecture. Belzoni says that to him "Thebes appeared as if he had been entering a city of giants, who, after a long conflict, were all destroyed, leaving the ruins of their various temples as the only proofs of their former grandeur." Were I to attempt any description of them, I should only expose my ignorance, as it requires the study of almost a life to decipher a single page of hieroglyphics.

Embarking again on the 22d, we proceeded down the river without meeting with any thing worthy of notice for a few days. Indeed, what we had seen gave us a temporary distaste for all nearer spectacles. We saw some crocodiles and a few ruins, but the latter were on a small scale, and did not tempt us to land.

On the 25th we arrived at Siout, where we went ashore. Our attention was first attracted by the great number of mosques. From one point I counted ten or twelve minarets, some of them handsomely formed. The appearance of the females had also considerably improved from those we first saw at Suakin, but it was in spite of their *noses* that they appeared more comely.

The bazaar was good and well provided, and we

bought some provisions; but the people attempted to cheat us in every way. Upon my remonstrating, they set up a clamour which might have been heard ten miles off. Indeed I found my office of "Minister of Finance" no sinecure; and even had I held it at an ample salary, Hume himself would never have had the conscience to move a reduction, more especially as the office was held *eastward of the Cape* only. Of all the modern plagues of Egypt (the ancient ones are not yet wholly out of fashion), the donkey-boys were the most impertinent. One urchin said I had given him a piece of bad money. I changed it; he dropped that piece into the water, and said I had given him one of less value. Mustapha, our servant, said he had it in his mouth. It was so, and we were preparing to give him a flogging, but he slipped through our hands, and vanished.

Lounging about in the bazaar, we saw something like a tarred sheet of brown paper, which we were informed was an eatable and a delicacy. We tried it, and found it so; it was apricot paste. Some hung beef we purchased, but did not praise.

At Siout, I submitted the honours of my chin to the tool of an Egyptian barber; but it proved only a sort of "drill" shaving, which though it shortened some of the *bristles*, made what remained look more shaggy than ever.

Hercules is not the only male spinner; for we saw many of the men of Egypt spinning wool with the distaff; and most of them maimed or disfigured. Some without the right eye; others with no teeth on the right side; and others again, without the fore-finger of the right-hand. These mutilations were most common among the younger men, and we were for some time puzzled to find out the cause. At last we ascertained that it was to prevent their serving in the pacha's army. The eyeless men could not take aim, the toothless bite a cartridge, or the fingerless draw a trigger; but Mahomet Ali is "a shrewd philosopher" at hitting upon revenges, and as he has discovered that men so mutilated can wear a fetter and pull an oar, he now makes a point of sending many of them to the gallies.

Leaving Siout on the 26th, we passed a monastery on the right bank of the river, situated upon a high cliff close to the water's edge. In warm weather the *padres* are said to swim off to the boats for charity; but as the morning was cold, they merely cried for "bucksheesh" of us from the top of the cliff; but we were "deaf as the adder."

Nothing particular occurred for two days; but on the third from Siout, the 29th, we came in sight of the false pyramids, and not long after of the true ones; nor did a very considerable time elapse before

we reached Cairo, where I landed to reconnoitre, leaving the rest of the party in the boat.

Estimate of Expenses from Suakin to Cairo.

The following estimate of our expenses may perhaps be of use to many others whom choice or necessity may send the same route. We were four Europeans, having travelled as well, and at the same time as economically, as possible:—

At Suakin, a Spanish or Austrian dollar (for they passed for the same) was worth 22 crutz. Our expenses thence to Berber were:—Provisions, 33 dollars; camels and drivers for the ameer, 200, 180 in advance, 20 at the journey's end; sheik, 5 dollars; guide, 2; Turkish soldier, 25; in all 265 dollars, or 1 dollar per mile.

At Berber, a Spanish dollar was worth 15 crutz. Hence to Kroosko, camels, through the kindness of Abbas Aga (which shows how we had been "served" by the ameer at Suakin), 33⅓ dollars; provisions, 23 dollars; guides and drivers, 2½ dollars; in all say 59 dollars for 350 miles, or 1 dollar for six miles very nearly.

From Kroosko to Philœ, boat 45 piastres; provisions, &c. 76; total, 121. [The piastre and crutz are the same, but the number to the dollar varies.]

From Assouan to Cairo, cangia, 300 piastres; provisions and expenses, 376; total, 676.

At Cairo the Spanish dollar is 19 piastres; say 17 piastres all the way, which makes from Kroosko to Cairo 47 dollars very nearly. Total from Suakin to Cairo, 370 dollars (half of which overcharge at Suakin), at 4*s*. 6*d*. per dollar, is 82*l*. 4*s*. 6*d*., or 20*l*. 11*s*. 1½*d*. each.

Our servants, 25 piastres per month each, by agreement.

CHAPTER V.

CAIRO—ALEXANDRIA.

Upon landing at Cairo, I went directly to the house of Effendi Osman; but he was absent at a *soirée;* and so I had to amuse myself in the street as I best could, till my case was represented to him. He sent the keys of a house, of which I was glad to take possession, and also to find in one of the apartments a sort of bed. I procured coffee and a hookah, resolved to present myself with "the calumet of peace," as there was none else to do it; and the successful termination of our African journey, made my financial management give me some reason to be at peace with myself. At rather a late hour, the Effendi arrived, and obligingly offered to send me something to eat and a better couch; but I was very fatigued and sleepy, and declined his polite offer.

I was up by day-break, and instantly set out to the boat, in order to pilot my companions and the baggage to my quarters.

Cairo is a fine-looking city; but one in which it is

very difficult for a stranger to move about. The streets are very narrow, and they are so crowded with people of all nations, loaded camels, horses, and donkeys, that, to make our way through them is no easy matter, and on foot exceedingly fatiguing and not altogether safe.

Finding pedestrianism most inconvenient, I hired a donkey, and so rode along the streets in some style. But as I was "progressing" at a pretty smart trot, down came my beast of burden, sending me over his ears with a most tremendous somerset. The street was not a very crowded one, so that neither man or beast trampled upon me, though I lay nearly stunned for a minute. But soon recovering, and finding no bones broken, I got up rejoicing to find my donkey standing close by me with all the mildness and resignation in the world to receive me again on his back. Remounting, I rode in state to the house of Effendi Osman, who politely accompanied me to the bazaar, for the important negotiation of purchasing a coat, but not one of the motley collection would fit me.

Early in the morning of the 31st, I hired a guide and interpreter, and set out for the pyramids. When there is any back water from the Nile in the way, as was the case at present, the passage is made as rivers used to be crossed in the Highlands of Scotland, only it is carried here on the shoulders of men, not of

maidens, as was the case in the more civilized north. The *bearers* are, however, as forward to the task in the one case as in the other, for no sooner does a party to the pyramids appear in sight, than the Arabs on the opposite side rush into the water, tucking up the only garment they possess tightly under their arm-pits, gauging the depth all the way with their persons, thereby showing how high you must ride in order to keep yourself dry, and very speedily offer their shoulders to the load, kneeling like camels when that is necessary. We had little trouble in settling the amount of fare with this animated craft; and so were shortly placed on *terra firma* upon the other side.

Our interpreter here related to me a little anecdote, which had occurred only a few days previous: a party of ladies and gentlemen had arrived at this spot on a similar expedition. The ladies of the said party experienced a sore internal conflict at having to cross this *Rubicon* in the manner I have described—they had come to see pyramids—not naked Arabs; but Curiosity, with the desire of having something to boast of through life, pleaded strongly for the pyramids. Modesty hung her head, blushing at the very thought of the whole proceeding, but was eventually forced to give way, and submit to be carried over on the shoulders of the naked Ismaelites.

On their return, Curiosity having feasted on the remains of kings, took a siesta, and Modesty thus becoming sole empress of the throne, declared positively she would not again mount the naked Arabs. How long the conflict might have continued it was impossible to say, had not the expedient been suggested that each fair lady should veil her eyes with her kerchief, which being resorted to, Modesty again fearlessly took her place in the arms of the Arabs, and the party returned in high spirits to Cairo.

I entered the interior of two large pyramids, and ascended a considerable way up one of them to enjoy the beautiful view; but all that I shall add to the volumes already written, is only my concurring testimony that, in the long list of Egypt's wonders, the pyramids certainly stand foremost. Of the sphynx I shall be as brief; it is, to appearance, a huge mass of natural rock, with only the face sculptured.

I left the pyramids with a very peculiar feeling—as if I had been transported away from the small realities of modern life; but the same guide who had taken me to "giant land," restored me to the society of little men, by clamouring for "bucksheesh" after I had paid him handsomely, and attempting to stop my donkey, by way of enforcing it; but my wrath and whip were both raised, and he fled at the mere demonstration. I was afterwards told that if my Greek

(interpreter) had not been with me, they would have been much more exorbitant in their demands, an Englishman *alone* being always charged higher than any body else,—so even at the pyramids poor John Bull must be fleeced!

Returning to Cairo, I waited on Colonel Campbell, the Consul General, who very kindly assured me that the Janissary in charge of the packets, who was very trustworthy, and could speak English well, should be put under my orders. The Colonel particularly requested that I would make no present to the Janissary (Selim), because he was anxious to abolish a practice so degrading to the consulate. I found Selim very useful and exceedingly well informed.

I now purchased stores to last me till I should reach Alexandria—coffee, sugar, dried meat, brandy, and other articles; also, a luxury, of which I had almost forgotten the use—a knife and fork.

Next morning (Feb. 1), Mr. Smith and I took a bath, the same in manner as as at Kenah, but much superior in style. The bath was paved with mosaic marble, and while we lay cooling, the room was fumigated by a censer of most fragrant incense which exhilarated the nerves, as much as the boiling and scraping had stimulated the muscles. I then went to breakfast with Colonel Campbell, after which I returned to my companions, and I took a kind and

reluctant farewell of the three: but part we must, —I was for England *direct*, and they by a more circuitous route.

After taking leave, I embarked in a cangia, along with the Janissary Selim and the despatches, the freight of the boat being fifty-five piastres. We passed the pacha's garden palace, and the branch of the Nile leading to Damietta, at which there is a collection of stone for throwing a bridge over the body of the river.

As we drifted down we saw vast numbers of pelicans and pilgrims, the former industriously fishing the river, the latter on their way to Mecca by Kenah and Cosseir, the pacha's embargo on camels in Syria having prevented the route of the faithful by Suez as formerly.

2d.—The fog so dense that we were obliged to stop at a small village; but the tongues of the women who came to offer fowls, vegetables, and other country produce for sale, were so vociferous, that I was glad to save my ears by being again hidden in the fog. As it cleared I noticed a raft made of pumpkins, with two men upon it fishing; the pumpkins are hollowed out and dried in the sun, in which state they are very buoyant. Farther up the Nile I had seen several made of dhourra stalks, which bore only one person. We drifted down all night, and on the morning of

the 3d reached Fouah, where I visited the manufactory of worsted caps established by the pacha. The work-people asked for "bucksheesh," but I had "remembered to forget" the meaning of that word. Hired a boat to carry myself and the Janissary to Alexandria, for which I paid twenty-seven piastres, and left Fouah. During the night I was awoke by a noise, which I fancied might be caused by some thief, attempting to carry off my *capacious* wardrobe; putting out my hand to seize him, I found it squeezed, not very tenderly, by a large rat. I arose and drove out the enemy; but found he had devoured the greater part of my soap, an article I had now the highest veneration for. This was a matter worthy of anger; but I smoked "the calumet of peace" with myself once more, and again lay down, with the light burning. The rats visited Selim in a body; but he had taken the precaution of wrapping himself in his blanket.

At 7 A. M. on the 4th, there was a violent squall with rain, the first that I had experienced since that at Caafe on the Red Sea. Soon after, we came in sight of Alexandria, I having now come about 1,000 miles down the Nile, from Kroosko, which, with the 613 on camels, made the actual distance I had travelled from Suakin about 1,600 miles.

Immediately on landing I called at the British

consulate, and was kindly received by Mr. Sloane, the vice-consul. I then hired lodgings at a boarding-house, kept by a Mrs. Hume, a widow; and there I found two naval surgeons, in the pacha's service, one English, the other Scotch; and of which they declared themselves heartily tired.

The Franks at Alexandria keep early hours: dinner at noon, supper at seven, and a regular siesta after dinner, which they consider very conducive to health. The English portion of them complain of want of amusement; but allow the French manage much better. It is curious enough that the French have a name for *ennui*, but no reality; the English plenty of reality, but no name.

I delivered my introduction to Messrs. Casey and Malin, who were extremely civil; and the latter made me a most acceptable present of half-a-dozen shirts. As I now expected *clean* food, I bought an English tooth-brush. Supped with Mr. Casey; and on returning to Mrs. Hume's, slept in a comfortable bed, which I had not done since leaving England seven months previous.

On the 7th I sallied forth, in order to engage a passage for Europe; but the rain had made the streets, which are not much improved by scavengers, so greasy, that it was like walking on *soft soap*. I contrived, however, to keep my feet very

tolerably, and reached the harbour, where, after examining several vessels bound for France and Leghorn, I engaged a passage on board the brigantine Leopoldo Secundo, bound for the latter place.

The same day I dined with Mr. Casey; and on my return home in the evening, it being the time of the carnival, two ladies did me the honour to enter my apartment *en masque*, habited in male attire, but they did not vouchsafe to utter a syllable; and the visit, much to my annoyance, was passed on their parts in total silence.

On the 8th, Captain Pressick, late a master in the British navy, but now commanding an Egyptian line-of-battle ship, paid me a visit, and kindly invited me to dinner, which I did not decline: and here I tasted some delicious Refosco wine, sparkling as champagne, but dark as claret.

Supped with Mr. Casey, and went afterwards to a public masquerade, which was not the most decorous assemblage I ever was in, but many of the characters were by no means badly supported. I observed two, dressed in the full costume of the male St. Simonians, some originals of which extraordinary sect I had seen at Cairo.

Next morning I visited the catacombs, which are supposed to be very ancient; and went some distance into the interior of them. I also visited Pom-

pey's Pillar, or, as some term it, the Pillar of Diocle-sian; but I neither ascended to the top, nor left my name among the hundred inscribed on the base. It is to be understood that I visited all antiquities for my own gratification at the time, and not with the intention of instructing others on their nature or history, to which I assuredly have neither claim nor pretension.

On reaching my quarters, I found Captain Mon-giardino, of the Leopoldo Secundo, waiting for me to hurry me on board. I accordingly dispatched my baggage, arranged the few little matters that still re-quired my attention, and set out for the port, in the full expectation of getting safely, speedily, and comfortably to Europe.

Carrying with me an introduction from Messrs. Casey and Malin to Messrs. Gower and Co., of Leg-horn, I went on board the Leopoldo. The captain, thinking it incumbent on him to do the honours of his ship, offered me some black-looking liquid out of a tea-pot: the precise nature of the mixture I have never yet been able to discover, but rather conclude the nauseous beverage was meant for coffee. He, however, appeared to relish it much; but, from this specimen of the *cuisine*, I augured badly of the fare I should meet with during my sojourn in the brigantine.

Finding there was but little chance of our yet sailing for some time, I again went on shore; and almost the first person I met was my late fellow-traveller, Mr. Mill. We visited the arsenal together, and also went on board some of the ships of war, among the rest a large frigate, and a three-decker, with guns along the gangway. When I judged that the time for the actual getting under weigh of the Leopoldo Secundo had arrived, I took a second farewell of Mr. Mill, and directed my course to the vessel, from which I landed no more upon African ground.

CHAPTER V.

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO LEGHORN.

Late in the evening of the 8th, I, a second time, went on board the brigantine, bidding adieu to what appeared to me the dirtiest city upon earth. I retired to my cabin, not certainly with very strong expectations of bettering my condition there, and it was just as well that I did not. Dirty as the city was, I could sleep, and, at Mrs. Hume's, comfortably; but though sleep was the only purpose for which I resorted to the cabin of the Leopoldo Secundo, sleeping there was out of the question. I was, to be sure, the only human inmate; but, otherwise, it was quite patriarchal—a very Noah's ark, with "beasts clean and unclean, and creeping things innumerable." There was one monkey, two poodles, four cats, and fleas beyond arithmetic. Such were to be my messmates, and, alas! in part bedfellows, during my tossing on, or rather under, the waves of the Mediterranean; for the bringantine was so deeply laden, that the gentlest sea we could expect would run clean over her waist.

On the 9th the pilot left us at 8 A. M., and we were fairly committed to the safety of the bark and the skill of the crew. That bark had been in many services. First she was a slaver, built at Barcelona; but having been captured by a frigate, she became a smuggler of tobacco from Gibraltar. At present she was sailing under the Tuscan flag, but not very particular as to cargo or port. Her last cargo had been pilgrims from Algiers to Alexandria, on their way to Mecca, which sufficiently accounted for at least some of the living part of the present one. The captain spoke at least as many languages as the vessel had seen services; and his general appearance bore that he himself had been occupied in more ways than one. He spoke Tuscan, Genoese, Spanish, Portuguese, and French very well, and English tolerably, the last of which I found of much advantage. The crew also was made up of many nations, so that it required a captain endowed with the gift of tongues; there were a Tuscan, a Spaniard, a Portuguese, a Brazilian, an Austrian, and a Genoese.

On the 10th, boisterous weather came on, and lasted for three days, during which the brigantine pitched, or rather tumbled in so irregular and uncomfortable a manner, and there came up withal so outrageous a "concert of villanous smells" from bilge water, rancid oil, "and all manner of abominations,"

that, inured as I had been to most seas and to all sorts of weather, I was as sick as a Cockney on his first trip to Margate. I soon made the discovery that all the crew sailed on shares, which explained to me the familiar and indiscriminate conversation which took place between them and the captain. On the 13th, 14th, and 15th, we were under Candia, generally tumbling about and making little way; but we had a fine view of the mountains covered with snow, and of Ida towering majestically over the others. The scenery, especially in Candia (seen as we stood through between that island and Gozzo), was grand and magnificent; and some of the villages on the heights most picturesquely situated. Growing tired, however, of the romantic, I amused myself one day in observing the progress of the cooking department, when I found the same oil was used for both *light* and *sauce*; so far it was fortunate, inasmuch that no mistake could be made; whereas in Egypt, the custom being to use castor oil for burning, the consequence might not have been so pleasant, had that not very agreeable liquid found its way into our never-failing dish, the stew.

It was not without much urging, aided by the all-operative stimulus of "bucksheesh," that I could prevail on the cabin boy once to wash his hands and face in my presence, by which operation he removed a

tenfold coating of Egyptian dirt, and gained no small portion of personal vanity by the result; for, upon examining himself in the glass, the boy seemed so much flattered by the change in his appearance, that, during the remaining part of the voyage, he actually washed his face twice of his own accord.

On the 16th and 17th we made several attempts to clear the island of Candia, but the wind blew so strong that we were always forced to stand in again; and as it blew from the snow-clad mountains, it felt piercingly cold, especially to me, who had, so short a time before, been all but grilled on camels' humps in the Nubian desert. On some of our tacks we stood so close to the land that we could observe the Candiote shepherds, with their flocks of sheep and goats, on the mountains. On the 18th the wind rather moderated, so that we were enabled to stand off; and in the course of the night we passed Cerigo, and saw the Morea. On the 19th we caught a glimpse of Navarino in the distance, and thence we stood across toward Sicily. On the 20th I observed the high land of Cephalonia. We had a fair wind all the night; and, as the day broke, it increased almost to a gale. Carrying sail, in order to make the coast of Italy, we were fairly buried in the sea, the poor little brigantine shaking and trembling from head to stern. A crow paid us a visit of curiosity, and took up its

abode in our ark, the cabin, with the cats, the poodles, the monkey, and myself. In the course of this night we made the Calabrian shore, and fortunately got into smooth water.

21st.—The gale still continuing, we, in the forenoon, stood across from shore to shore, and saw much of the scenery on both sides, which is perfectly enchanting. On the one side, there was Reggio, with the cultivated valleys and lofty mountains of Calabria; and on the other, Sicily, with Messina, and all the fairy villages in its neighbourhood. As I stood on the deck, admiring the alternating beauties and sublimities of this long-celebrated passage, I could not help regretting that I had not some one more congenial for assisting me in the admiration of them than the "rude and boisterous captain of the sea," who, I doubted not, had at one period of his life been, and might still, if circumstances favoured him, be not disinclined to become, what Byron so accurately designates, a "sea solicitor."

At 2 in the afternoon of that day we anchored off Messina; but no communication between us and the shore was permitted, for fear of the plague—the people of Messina, and of those parts generally, believing that disorder to be always raging in Egypt.

On the morning of the 22nd, Mr. Barker, the British vice-consul, came within *speaking distance*

of us. To him I stated the outline of my adventures and disasters. He had the kindness to return in the afternoon, bringing me some newspapers, which were indeed treasures. He told me that he had reported the particulars which I had given him to the agent for Lloyd's, who had transmitted them by that day's post to London, by the way of Naples, so that they would reach England in twenty-four days; and, as I afterwards found, a very garbled, or at all events imperfect and inaccurate, announcement it was.

The wind moderating, the sea was covered with vessels sailing to the eastward. Messina has a beautiful appearance from the water; the varied shades of light for ever changing on the green hills, as I beheld them, and the distant mountains covered with snow, had an effect which served at once to cheer, and to inspirit me, forlorn as I felt I was.—The consul told me there were between thirty and forty English families residing in the town.

23rd.—The wind still detained us; and we had a very abundant fall of snow in the course of the morning, which rendered it exceedingly cold. In this pause the captain, who, I am convinced, was a native of France, notwithstanding the Italian sound and length of his name, gave me, partly in French, partly in English, a short history of his life, in which, though there were certainly no lack of adventures,

yet it was very barren of interest. The event in it which he appeared to regret the most appeared to be that of having committed the folly of marrying a second time; but he candidly owned that he had not seen his *cara sposa seconda* for three years, as *she* resided at Genoa, and that was a place for which *he* never had any commands. He finished this passage of his life in true Frenchman-like style, by assuring me that, "*J'ai toujours une grande amitié pour Madame*," and "respect her much."

24th.—Wind and weather still continued provokingly against us, and we had time to think of how we fared in the way of eatables and drinkables. This day our dinner consisted of one cauliflower boiled, with oil, anchovies, and lemon as sauce,—not bad eating, though somewhat light for a hungry man. However, I had this consolation, that I stood in no danger of dying of surfeit, or even requiring that "leech-craft" of which there was professionally none on board—though there was a little *phlebotomy* always being carried on. The wine, too, was such small acid stuff, that if I ventured to taste it, I was instantly seized with heartburn. The crew, however, drank it both with avidity and impunity, their rations probably affording nothing in which heartburn could be excited—as their dinner this day only consisted of two cauliflowers, dressed in the same manner as ours,

amongst eight. English sailors would absolutely mutiny at such fare; but these men seemed to think it no hardship.

On the 25th, we left the harbour at Messina, accompanied by an health officer to prevent our taking liberties with the shore. The tide set strong through the Faro; but Scylla and Charybdis are now disarmed of those terrors which made them so formidable in ancient story.

I was now on the look-out for Stromboli, nor was it long before I was gratified by its appearance over the water, casting forth smoke and flames. A volcano is at all times a sublime, and often a terrific sight; and to me, who had not previously seen any one except Gebel Tor, and that was tranquil while the Nautilus passed, even Stromboli, which is not upon the most magnificent scale, was highly interesting. On the 27th, we stood close in; and I observed, near the water's-edge, a village built upon that heap of *lava, cinders,* and *pumice-stones.* Surely the inhabitants must be candidates for the ferrymanship of the Styx, that they have planted their habitations so imminently within peril of both the flood and fire!

On the 28th, we were held in the gentle durance of a dead calm; to avert which, and to obtain a fair wind, the sailors invoked every saint in the calendar, and I assisted, in as far as my learning on that subject

extended, and probably a little further; but the saints were deaf to our supplications; and it may be that they were keeping Lent with the same tranquil piety as the governor of Assouan was keeping the Rhamazan, when we arrived in that city. A breeze did indeed spring up, but it came from the wrong quarter; and I began to be very impatient at having to support with my blood so many of those idlers which contributed nothing to the working of the vessel. Fleas I could forgive, at least for occasional inroads; but, on board the Leopoldo Secundo, I found many who stuck by me more closely, and were not so neat in their shapes or so frisky in their movements.

For five days we made very little progress; but, if a splendid sight could make any reparation for hope delayed, I enjoyed one in the greatest perfection. For forty-eight hours we lay becalmed within sight of Vesuvius, which was then in a state of highly excited and eruptive action. Naturally supposing that the very strong impression which this most sublime of Nature's mightier operations must be partaken of by others, I turned to the captain in hopes of enjoying my wonder with him; and so I did, but it was of another sort; for heedless of the splendour of Vesuvius, he was very coolly—giving the monkey a dose of physic. What a climax to my ecstasies!

I went to the mast-head to enjoy a more extended

prospect of the scenes around us; in this way I had made myself familiar. I saw the dome of St. Peter at Rome, and when in contemplation of these, but more especially in passing Elba, I could not help reflecting "How are the mighty fallen!"

Leghorn at last appeared in sight; and on the evening of the 10th of March, we anchored before it. Here I fondly hoped that all dangers and even all delays were at an end, and that being near to a point from which carriages and packets to England were equally certain and speedy, I should arrive there with the utmost celerity I could desire. But though hope is proverbially treacherous, it appears never to be more so than in those cases in which to our limited perception it seems to involve most abundantly the elements of certainty; and that such was the case with me will appear in the following chapter.

CHAPTER VI.

FROM LEGHORN TO LONDON.

On the brigantine being anchored, the captain went on shore to report his arrival at the Health-office—for the same dread from Egypt prevails at Leghorn as at Messina. I took the opportunity of sending by him a note to the consul, informing that officer that I was the bearer of dispatches from Alexandria. But on the captain's return he informed me that we had forty days' quarantine to perform. At this I was horror-struck, being utterly unprepared for it, as we had brought with us a clean bill of health. But it appears *that* is of no service whatever to the first three vessels from Alexandria, though it may to those which come a little later. Thus, as it is not unfrequently the case in other matters, my very hurry had probably been turned into a means of delay; and had I been later in leaving Alexandria, I should in all probability have sooner been on shore, enjoying my freedom at Leghorn, or performing the remainder of my journey.

Two health-officers came on board with the captain, and joined our mess. Next morning, after the *medico* had paid his visit, and given permission for our cargo to be landed, I applied to the quarantine officer for leave to go on shore, which he promptly and positively refused. I threatened that I would complain to the government; tried to bully the captain; and sat down and wrote to the consul; these several duties being accomplished, I dressed myself, packed my bag, and went on deck. It appeared that they wished to detain me on board, till a large lighter was loaded, which would have taken some hours to perform, as several bales had got adrift in the hold, and required to be repacked. This induced me to repeat my bullying, which at length had the desired effect, and a signal was made for a boat. The lighter, although not half filled, was towed ashore by the health boat; and Captain Mongiardino and myself followed in the launch, astern of all.

About 11 A. M., on the 12th of March, I set foot on the continent of Europe, having been 29 days on my passage from Alexandria; but I landed only to be immured in the lazaretto. My luggage, consisting but of a bag with a small quantity of moveables at the *bottom*, was examined with much pomp and circumstance; I was commanded to give up my arms; and was "then marched off for No. 6, of the house

of bondage," for no purpose that I could imagine, unless it was to see whether I should get sick there or not; and the captain and guard took leave of me with something of the same kind of expression that a bailiff may be supposed to take when he has lodged one in safe custody.

While they were fetching my *baggage* from the inspectors, I had leisure to examine what kind of habitation the Grand Duke of Tuscany had provided me during the six weeks, that I was to be an involuntary inhabitant of his territory. These were two apartments, formed with heavy windows down to the floor, strongly barred and grated outside, and totally unfurnished. I ordered a table, a chair, and at the same time they brought a pair of trussels, with three pieces of deal board for a bed, on which I spread my carpet and pillow.

When my abode was furnished, I wrote to Mr. Gower, requesting him to forward my letters to England. Then I had to deliver them to the guardian, in order to be fumigated, after which they were folded and wafered in my presence, but I was not allowed to touch them subsequently to their undergoing the supposed sanatory preparation. The odour imparted to them by this process made me pity the olfactory nerves of those who were destined to read them.

I now discovered that I had a fellow-captive, whom

upon inquiry I found to be Dr. Rüppell, the celebrated African traveller, whose presence refreshed me as much as if I had unexpectedly come upon an oasis in the desert.—We met—that is, we saw each other, and we walked at the same time, but not together; Dr. Rüppell having already performed twenty-two days of his quarantine, and thus, according to the logic of the place, so many days further removed from the plague than myself.

Having procured a candle, at six o'clock, I retired to my apartments, the guardiano (*Anglicé*, "gaoler") taking care to follow and lock me up for the night.

Next morning I made another acquaintance, a Greek priest, a native of Illyria, who was *resting* here on his travels from Mount Sinai to Rome; but as he and I knew but little Italian between us, our conversation was but limited. I hired a valet, Augostino Caghlierese, at three *paoli* per day, which, at par is 1*s.* 4½*d.* sterling. In the afternoon I had a a visit at the *parlatoria* (the speaking-place), from Mr. Falconar, the consul, who brought me Galignani's Messenger for January and February, and some French books; and Mr. Gower kindly sent me some wine, some tea, and a tea-pot; so that, though I was in durance vile enough, I received kindnesses for which I shall ever feel grateful.

Dr. Rüppell, whose talents and powers of endu-

rance need no praise from me, seemed exactly the man for a traveller in the wilds—never at a loss, or discontented with whatever might happen. I was expatiating to him one day on the horrors of quarantine; when he turned upon me, assuring me that I was no philosopher. "Where," said he, "can a man leave gold without fear? Where can an old man leave a young wife without feeling jealous? The answer is —*Only in quarantine.*"

The Greek priest informed us that the Russian lazarettos are much more strict than that at Leghorn though the time of confinement is shorter, being in no case more than fourteen days. All their clothe are fumigated; a soldier is locked up with each person every night, and they have no place to walk in. We had a narrow strip between two walls for a promenade, but so high and confined we could see nothing from it save the heavens; and yet the lazarettos (three in number) at Leghorn are considered as the most perfect establishments of the kind in Europe, and have been taken as a model for several others. The guards are all Swiss, extremely well conducted, but strict in performing their duty.

Having felt the full misery of this gloomy abode so seriously myself, I shall not venture to "bestow the tediousness" of six weary, monotonous weeks upon the reader; therefore shall merely notice a few of

the little varieties which from time to time put me in mind that I was alive.

On the first Sunday after my arrival, it being announced that mass was to be performed in the court of the lazaretto, I went there a little after nine, and found the inmates ranged according to their different terms of quarantine, in separate parties. Augostino and myself were placed together; and, soon after the arrival of the officiating priest was announced, I was informed that he was in a chapel appropriated to the purpose, and stationed behind a window closely grated with copper wires; but from the low and hurried manner in which he got through his duty, I question if a single word that he uttered was heard in the court-yard. There is only one appropriate text for a lazaretto sermon, and that is, "*Patienza!*"

On quitting my "cell" one morning, I found my friend Dr. Rüppell in conversation with a lady and two gentlemen, who were also attended by Signor Nicola, our guardian (a very obliging personage, habited in a short velvet jacket). I immediately went within speaking distance: for *I*, too, had now undergone the purification of nine days of penance to make me keep aloof from the taint of new comers. The strangers were just arrived. The lady was the wife of the Neapolitan consul at Aleppo; her only personal recommendations were her bright black eyes and hair;

for she was curiously *embonpoint*, and still more curiously pigeon-toed. Of her mental endowments I cannot speak, as we had no common vehicle of ideas, neither of us understanding the language of the other.

Finding that my rooms, unfurnished in all else as they were upon my taking possession, were nearly carpeted with fleas, I inquired after the clime and creed of my predecessors, and finding that they had been Portuguese friars, I no longer wondered at the legacy they had left me. My servant commenced hostilities against the jumping race, and slew them by hundreds by means of a red liquid, with which he sprinkled the floors.

Augostino, indeed, proved to be both a useful and an amusing fellow; and would sometimes try to divert me with a little ventriloquism, in which, by the help of the chimney, he was by no means unsuccessful. He had once served a Frenchman, who was an adept in the art, and had given him some lessons. He told me that his master used every morning to swallow a spoonful of mustard-seed, and eat a few oats. What he took the latter for I never could divine, unless, as I asked Augostino, it was to assist him in *neighing*, if occasion required; but I found he did not relish any joking on this important matter, evidently considering ventriloquism to be a very mysterious affair.

He also performed the part of servant of all work with great assiduity, acting both as valet, *washerwoman*, and cook in as far as regarded my breakfast, at which meal he often treated me with a capital omelette. My dinners were provided from the canteen (there being one established to each of the three lazarettos), and by Dr. Rüppell's advice, I was supplied with them by *contract*. Macaroni, dressed in various ways, was one constant dish for the whole six weeks I was in durance vile. Occasionally, Augostino's wife would in kindness bring me oranges and flowers; the latter I found were not admitted without difficulty, owing to the idea of their being liable to carry infection.

Augostino one day obtaining permission to explore an old storehouse in the lazaretto, his researches brought to light an antique lamp, but which, to my great sorrow, had no genii attendant on it, nor was it possessed of any similar virtues; but with wood, paper, and ingenuity, Augustino contrived to make a sort of shade for it, and it became useful in its way.

The consul and Mr. Gower did what they could to make my time pass less heavily, by frequently sending me newspapers and books; among the latter were Mrs. Mariana Starke's Travels, from which I derived considerable information; but all could not reconcile me to my prison. "*Dull care*" would not "*begone*,"

neither would "*Melancholy*" be chased "*away*," though I both sung and whistled the airs for their banishment in the very best style of which I was capable; and when I took up the ditty of "*Life let us cherish*," the fiend *ennui* was always jogging me by the elbow, and whispering in my ear, "To what purpose?" These melancholy moods were now heightened by a severe disappointment. The consul had hoped, from the circumstance of our having a clean bill of health, to procure an abridgment of my term of imprisonment; but the authorities were inexorable, and he failed.

To add to my misfortunes, I lost the society of Dr. Rüppell, whose general information and humorous anecdotes of the Abyssinians and Egyptians assisted much to beguile the time. He came from the city to visit me, and complained that he had not left the lazaretto three hours before he had his pocket picked, thus verifying his own philosophy of the "advantages of quarantine!" I scarcely recognized him at first, as he had got metamorphized into a Christian in the English costume, while in the lazaretto he was a Turk, both in dress and in look. His appearance was not improved by the change, which gives some colour to the adage, that "a handsome Turk makes but an ugly Christian,"—an adage not very complimentary to our style of dress.

The captain on guard paid me one morning what he called "a visit of service" for the purpose of inspecting my wardrobe; in my case, that was a very light affair, and he gave me permission to walk in some others parts of the establishment. I forthwith went to the *gabia*, or cage, the hospital for plague patients, where I found the windows closely wired, to prevent the ingress of birds, as it seems that they, as well as flowers, are great carriers of infection. By mounting the sill of a window, I got a peep at part of the country, which was truly refreshing, as I had for some time seen no part of the earth, save what I trod upon.

Walking about I espied a sort of hand-barrow, the bearer, no doubt, of many an unfortunate being who had perished here, as within sight there was a dreary "nook" called the burial-ground, with a wooden cross erected in the centre.

One day I was aroused from my reverie by a loud clangour of sounds, which were any thing but "dulcet." It was the grand bells of Leghorn celebrating their *own* return from Rome, at which city they had been, according to custom, to receive the annual benediction of his Holiness the Pope after Lent. I have always hated the din of bells, and this time it was more annoying than usual, and kept sounding in my ears for hours after the brazen

tongues of my tormentors were still. And, as if to punish me for want of reverence in a land where bells are consecrated utensils, I had to endure the torment of their clamour the very day following, "from morn to dewy eve." Madame La Grande Duchesse, being seized with premature pains, the bells were put in requisition, to "drive away evil spirits" (of course); and though I could not be so uncharitable as to wish the ducal offspring to be "still-born," most heartily did I wish that the bells had been still during the process. The din, morning, noon, and night, in itself bad enough, was not improved by the recollection that the last bell I had heard before those of Leghorn, was that belonging to the Nautilus, so dismally tolled by the surges of the drowning sea.

One evening, the guardiano gratified my wish of exploring the top of a tower which served as a watch-house to the gabia. From this elevated position, I could see the plan of the whole quarantine ground, part of the city, and a sort of esplanade which lay between. On the latter there were several carriages of peculiar form, with ladies in them, taking their Sunday evening's ride; but, as they passed near my post of observation, they seemed to turn away their heads intuitively from the lazaretto, so that, though I had then abundance of leisure for noting down any

balance that might be in their favour, they afforded me no opportunity of contrasting them with the dames of Africa. Some few days before I left the lazaretto, a priest arrived to confess the guards, "Poor wretches," thought I, "any sins that you can possibly commit in this place must be only in idea, and can scarcely even come under the denomination of sins of *omission*." However, the ceremony was performed, and on its termination Augostino very politely made the padre some coffee from the *remains* of what I had been drinking at daylight, which he declared to be "most excellent." Augostino instantly exclaimed, "*And so it ought to be; my master brought it himself all the way from Abyssinia.*"—"I thought so," said the padre; "I never tasted any thing so fine." A useful servant this, to be so ready with an impromptu!

Varied only by such small events as these, the weary days of my quarantine crawled on. But as every thing connected with our mortal life must, like that life itself, have an end, the period of my confinement drew, at last, towards a close; and as I was anxious to appear as becomingly as I could in that society from which I had so long been an exile, I hinted to Augostino my wish to part with those mustachios which were of several moons' growth. He proposed that I should submit my head to the

shears at the same time. I consented, and he made me bare beyond all polite endurance. But as, while the feeling of confinement was upon me, nothing could give satisfaction, so, now that the hope of deliverance was strong, few things could annoy; and I bore my clipped pole with what cherishers of curls, who look forward to the "Macassar oil" as their sheet-anchor in the stream of time, would consider great magnanimity.

The silent succession of evening and morning, despite the clamour of the bells, brought about the 21st of April; and after being duly "visited" by the *medico*, and having my arms restored to me, and bidding adieu to Signor Nicola, and, as I hoped "for ever," to the lazaretto, as early in the morning as I could find a conveyance, I departed for the city, accompanied by Augostino and the "bag." Judging that I was too early for my kind friend Mr. Gower, I wandered amongst the beautiful tombs in the English burying-ground till I supposed he might, without infringement on his hours of repose, be ready to receive me. With a light heart I proceeded to his dwelling, and met with a welcome which revived and heightened all the favours he had before shewn me.

While at breakfast, I happened to express a wish to see Florence; and as there were still three days before the sailing of the steam-boat in which I intended

to proceed to Genoa, Mr. G. advised me to set out for Florence that same day. I at once took the hint, called upon the consul to thank him for his repeated kindnesses, to which he now added another in a letter of introduction to Mr. Seymour, the British minister at Florence; and after seeing a few of the sights in Leghorn—among others the famous statues of four negroes, erected at the corners of a pedestal on the Mole, dedicated to one of the Medici family, and Mr. Barton's giraffe—I returned to Mr. Gower, who, in the interim, had arranged every thing for my visit to Florence.

At 1 P. M. I stepped into a caleche, accompanied by Augostino; and at half-past 8 the same evening I was at the gates of Florence. I secured a bed; and, taking Augostino as pilot, went to the opera, where, the guards having allowed him to pass, he was soon at my elbow. I was delighted with the singing, and would have been enchanted with the dancing, had it not been that poor Modesty appeared to be discharged by the whole *corps de ballet, prima donnas* and all; but being a stranger, I am bound to suppose that it was "by particular desire," and "for that night only."

I rose with the dawn the next morning, in order to see as much of Florence "the fair," as my limited stay would permit; and I must confess that I only

wanted some one to share the admiration with me in order to render the pleasure complete. Returned to my hotel to fortify myself by breakfasting, and for the first time tasted an omelette of artichokes, which was not bad—but who could think of food upon a first visit to Florence!—I saw the "Gallery," with which I was quite enchanted, and I no longer wondered at the grace and elegance of the attitudes I had witnessed the preceding evening at the opera, where the fair votaries of Terpsichore have such models before them from which to copy. Leaving the Gallery with regret, I once more returned to the hotel and dined; drove to the Cassino; saw the Grand Duke's dairy—the very cows are classical; lastly, saw the "Bedlam," for a berth in which place I sorely felt under some apprehensions I was likely to become a candidate, from the confusion in my brain arising from all the various and beautiful sights I had been running after for the last twenty-four hours.

At 9 P. M. I took a caleche for Pisa, and arrived there at 5 in the morning of the 23d. Slept a short time; rose, breakfasted; went to see the celebrated leaning towers; and by 10 A. M. I again started for Leghorn. Arriving there, dined with Mr. Gower; bade adieu to that kindest of friends, to the consul, and also to Augostino, with whom I was sorry to

part; and at 5 P. M. embarked in the Columbo steamer for Genoa.

Mr. Butler, Mr. Gower's partner, was very unwell, but he received me most kindly, and treated me most hospitably. Took a hasty glance at the city; the goldsmith's shops are peculiarly splendid and tempting.

At 6 in the evening bade farewell to Mr. Butler, and, jumping into the *malle de poste*, was carried, by the light of a most splendid full moon, through a country highly beautiful and picturesque, my travelling companions being a young Englishman, a padre, and the courier. In the morning passed over the battle field of Marengo, and entered Alessandria at 5. The post detained us here for some time, but in the afternoon we resumed our journey, and travelled during the night, only stopping to take coffee at Este, the birth-place of Cardinal Alfieri. Entered Turin, by a fine bridge over the Po, at an early hour on the morning of the 26th. Slept a few hours, but rose at 10, and after breakfast visited the Museum, which contains Drovetti's famous collection of Egyptian antiquities, lately bought by the Sardinian government; started again; supped, and had some punch at the little inn at Susa, and then ascended mount Cenis during a fall of snow.

On the 27th we travelled for twelve hours over a

very interesting country, ascending nearly the whole way; and at night, the brightness of the moonlight, and the depth of the contrasted shadows, gave fully as much effect to the scenery as if I had seen it during the day. Passed the mountains of Savoy, and reached Pont Beauvoisin, on the French frontier, on the 28th. Had my baggage searched, and got a provisional passport. Rode in a cart with the mail to la Tour du Pin, and there met the Grenoble *malle de poste*, of which I availed myself. I rode for some time outside, but being quite overcome by fatigue and sleep, and having also lost my hat, I was induced to get into the *coupée*, where I found a fellow-passenger of "no ordinary weight." On the afternoon of the same day we reached Lyons, where the marks of recent warfare were still visible. Here, however, I replaced my hat. At 6 on the morning of the 29th got into the diligence, and very nearly into a quarrel, upon the false accusation that I had kept the vehicle waiting. On the 30th breakfasted at Moulines, and thought of Sterne and his Maria, and also how very "*unsentimental*" my journey had been. On the 1st of May dined at Fontainbleau, and saw the once gorgeous palace, now a comparative wreck. At 7 on the same evening reached Paris, and being very much exhausted by my rapid travelling so immediately following the inert quietude of

the lazaretto, I entered the first hotel I came to, and went to bed. My intention was to start again the next morning, but when the time arrived I found my limbs so stiff and swelled that I resolved to rest for that day in Paris. A warm bath relieved me so much that I was able to see many of the sights of Paris during the day; but in the evening I enjoyed the greatest of them all. I went to the *Théâtre Française*, and there saw Mademoiselle Mars, at the age of seventy, looking like seventeen, and playing the most girlish characters with great truth and nature.

I left Paris on the following morning, and arrived at Boulogne on the 4th, where I remained one afternoon; crossed to Dover the next day, and immediately set off for London, which I reached in safety. Here ended my somewhat singular passage homeward from Bombay; and here also I shall close my brief, but I trust not altogether uninteresting, Narrative.

THE END.

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